California GARDEN

FEBRUARY-MARCH 1970

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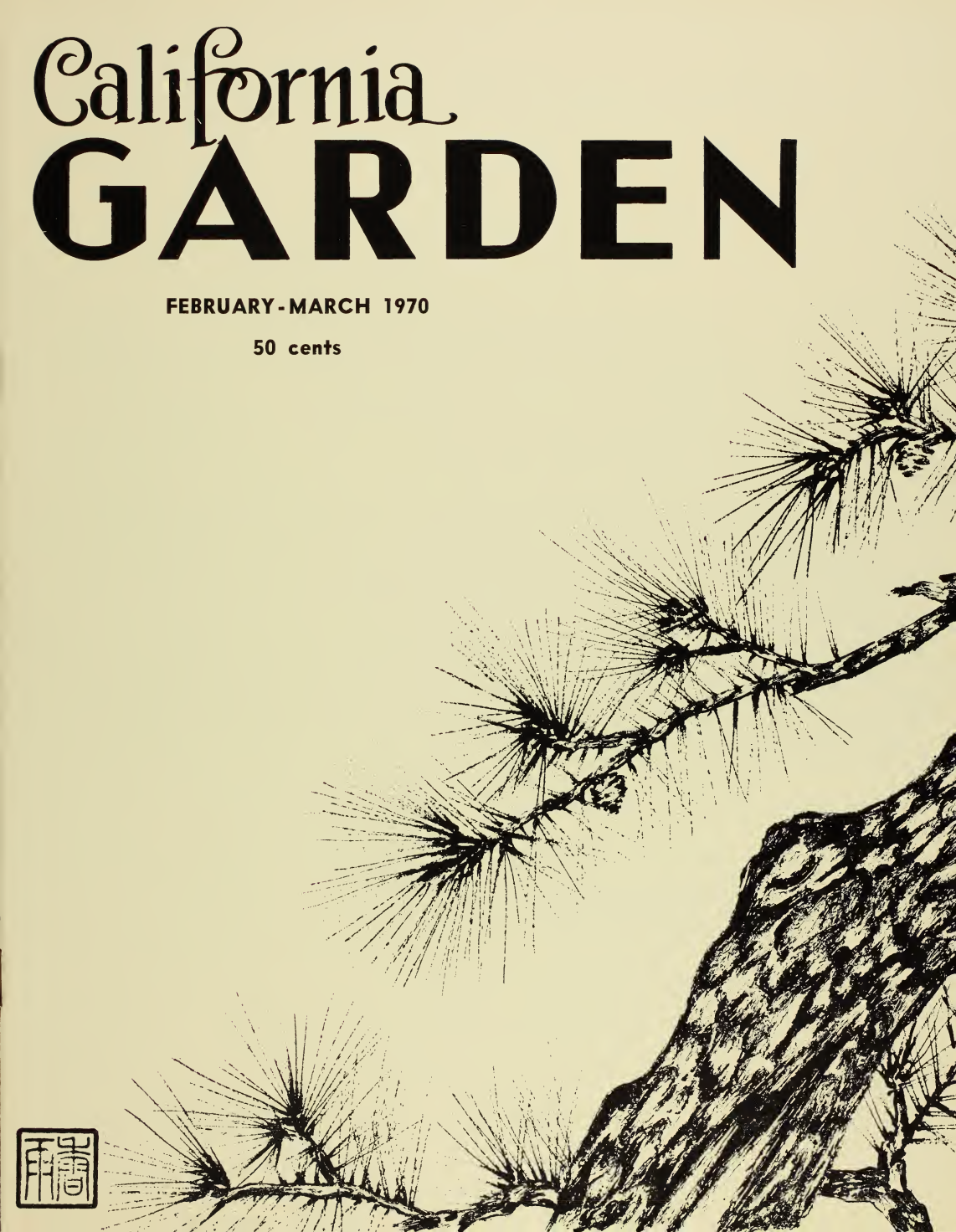

Floral events . . .

to enjoy

Floral Association General Meetings on third Tuesday.

February 17 (Tuesday 8:00 p.m.) *"Exotic Plants."*

March 17 (Tuesday 1:30 p.m.) *"All About Herbs:* growing, using, enjoying" by Jo Grey of Rancho Santa Fe, Herb hobbyist, gardener and writer.

to go

February 6 (Friday 10:30-2:30) San Diego Floral Association's annual *"Fun With Flowers,"* Kona Kai Club. Luncheon and oriental, traditional and contemporary flower arrangement demonstrations by Rose Cantor, Vi Brueckner and Shirley Jackson. For reservations call Mrs. R. Hoyt (296-2757) or Floral Office. Open to the public. $6.00.

February 21-22 (Saturday 2-6, Sunday 11-6) San Diego Camellia Society's *"1970 Camellia Show,"* Conference Building, Balboa Park. Anyone may enter, entries accepted 7-10:30 a.m., Sat. Call chairman, Clyde Higgins 264-0452. Open to the public. Donation 50c.

March 1 (Sunday 11-5) Orchid Society Open House. Floral Building, Balboa Park. Open to the public. Free.

March 21-22 (Saturday 1-6, Sunday 10-5) San Diego Flower Arrangers Guild Annual Flower Show, *"Mod, Mode and Mood in Flowers."* Open to the public. Donation $1.00.

April 3-4-5 Annual Orchid Show, Conference Building, Balboa Park.

April 5 Annual Flower Show of San Diego Chapter of Ikebana International.

to tour

February 14 (Saturday) INDIO DATE FESTIVAL. $7.50 includes admission to festival. Buses leave La Jolla at 8:30 and Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park at 9:00 a.m.

March 14 (Saturday) LOS ANGELES CHINA TOWN, JAPAN TOWN, OLIVERA STREET and RESTORED PLAZA. $6.00. Buses leave La Jolla at 8:30 Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park at 9:00 a.m.

April Annual Desert Tours.

For reservations and information call Floral Office (232-5762) or Mrs. Innis (298-1690) or Mrs. Bunker (281-5027).

to learn

Flower arrangement classes every Monday morning 10-12.

1st Three Mondays: *Sumiko Lahey,* Teacher, Sogetsu School of Japanese Flower Arrangement. Ikebana: certificates awarded. *Chairman: Loretta Crocker.*

4th Monday: *Mrs. John Kirkpatrick.* Traditional and modern Western.
Chairman of Instruction: Mrs. R. Hoyt (296-2757).

to see

February: *Botanical Building, Balboa Park:* 400 Cinerarias, 200 pots King Alfred Daffodils. In front of building: English Style mixed spring flower display.
Balboa Park: Timkin Gallery: 1500 Nemesia; Along the Prado: Cinerarias; Formal Garden: Stock and Calendula; Mall: Pansy.
San Diego County Administration Building: Iris and Roses.

March: *Botanical Building, Balboa Park:* 1000 pots of daffodils. 15 March: 400 pots of Easter Lillies. EASTER SUNDAY: 4000 blossoms of Easter Lily.

(Flower Show School, Course V will be on May 5, 6, 7, 1970).

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Southern California's Own Garden Magazine

February - March 1970

Vol. 61 No. 1

THE COVER

The pine on the cover was painted with the medium and technique used for painting on Kimonos in Japan. Sadako Oehler, a talented Senior Professor of Ikenobo Flower Arranging, studied this art in her native Japan.

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The San Diego Floral Association

Founded 1907 — Incorporated 1910

San Diego's Oldest and Largest Garden Club

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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Floral Association Building, Balboa Park, San Diego, California 92101
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An introduction to the new editor . . .

This issue of California Garden Magazine comes under the editorship of Mrs. Roy K. Jones II (Barbara Schillreff Jones). The officers and the Board of Directors of the San Diego Floral Association are enthusiastic about the possibilities for success of their magazine under the new editor.

Mrs. Jones comes to the Association with a good educational background and high recommendations. She has lived in San Diego, California, off and on for the greater part of her life. She is active in all phases of garden club work and is a member of the San Diego Floral Association.

Mrs. Jones acquired a formal background in botany and graduated from San Diego State College. She became a Test and Research engineer at Convair in San Diego where part of her duties were to test, photograph and write reports for publication. Also, she taught Science and English for the San Diego City Schools.

When her career Naval Officer husband was transferred to Japan, Mrs. Jones continued her education by taking graduate work in history at Jochi University, Tokyo. Her major studies in Japanese specialty schools consist of: Japanese flower arranging (13 certificates — 3 schools), registered with Japanese Government, Bonsai (tree culture) 1 year, Bonseki (stone arrangement) 1 year, Bonkei (miniature garden design) 2 years — certificate awarded, sumi painting (flower and landscape) 3 years, oil painting and art, 2 years.

In Japan, Mrs. Jones served as assistant editor and editor of Ikebana International magazine and monthly newsletter. In addition to her regular duties she edited material written by non-native English speaking writers.

Mrs. Jones is an energetic and dedicated person. The Publication Board of California Garden Magazine is confident that Mrs. Jones will bring to the magazine the horticulture excellence as well as the artistic quality which is commensurate with the dedication of those who have worked for the success and who have struggled for the survival of the magazine.

Today we publish the oldest horticultural magazine in continuous publication in the United States. The subscribers to the magazine are dedicated garden club members, flower arrangers, horticulturists and outstanding horticultural writers, the most popular garden magazines, libraries of Botanical Foundations throughout the United States and the World, numerous schools, colleges, universities and public libraries. Many foreign governments subscribe to the magazine for their libraries which are somewhat like our U.S. Congressional Library. The high merit and importance of our subscribers is a compliment to the magazine. It is also a challenge for superiority which the Association feels it has an obligation to meet. For this accomplishment we gladly place our trust in Mrs. Jones and wish her the success which will reflect kindly upon the San Diego Floral Association and its article, California Garden Magazine.

Virginia M. Innis

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Conservation of People

An Editorial

One of mankinds most important needs is for a time of quiet and aloneness. Our ancestors found this by exploring and settling in wilderness areas. In our modern life we try often to find an uninhabited place by sailing in a boat, walking on the shore, climbing a mountain or visiting a National or a State Park or a wilderness area. Usually, only a few days per year can be found to "get away," and perhaps this accounts for the mounting nervousness of people. But, why not make ones own home a retreat?

For centuries the peoples of the Mediterranean area have created their private enclosed gardens, and this custom was carried by the early Spanish settlers to California. We see it today in the quiet enclosed patio — one's private place away from the world. For years the Japanese have coped with over-population and have designed gardens where, in the heart of the city, in a tiny area one has the feel, odor and even sounds of the wilderness. Not everyone should have a Spanish or a Japanese garden, but the techniques developed over the centuries can be well adapted to our California living.

One of the most frustrating views in any modern city is the rows of houses facing streets like eggs in a crate with their large heavily-draped windows looking out at other houses with heavily-draped windows. How much nicer if an easy maintenance garden of trees and shrubs made the heavy draperies un-necessary! Plants reduce sound, so one could relax as he walked from the people filled world of the street into the quietness and peacefulness and natural beauty of his home.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if one could recognize a house by its garden, not by the number?

PHOTO BY MACKINTOSH
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320 MOSS ST.
CHULA VISTA
422-4650

The 200th Anniversary's Accent on Flowers

by Virginia M. Innis

Mrs. Nibby Klinefelter and Mr. Walter E. Greenwood watch Mr. Jim Stallsonburg add another plant to the Mission Garden.

PHOTO BY BETTY MACKINTOSH

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY for the city of San Diego has come and gone. One of the most successful aspects of the celebration was the accent on flowers.

The most permanent remembrance of the 1969 year-long bicentennial is a beautiful building designated for Balboa Park—a building which the people gave themselves in 1968 and which will be constructed in 1970-71. Named La Casa del Prado, the new building will resemble and replace the Food and Beverage Building. The Balboa Park Committee favors naming the south wing of the building "the garden center of La Casa del Prado." (There will be an article on the new building in a forthcoming issue of CALIFORNIA GARDEN MAGAZINE.)

Flowers are a part of California that attribute to the irresistable beauty of the land. It was natural to include flowers in the celebration plans. The Southern California climate makes it possible for almost any flower grown any where in the world to be grown here.

Commercial flower growers represent a healthy segment of the San Diego County agricultural scene. Non-professional hobbyists represent some of the world's most outstanding and knowledgeable horticulturists and most are members of one or more garden clubs or specialty societies. From the beginning all of the groups came together to plan for a floral side to the celebration.

In 1966, a floral committee along with the 200th Anniversary Board started formulating plans. Co-chairmen of the floral committee were San Diego Floral Association members, Joan Betts and Alice Zukor. The commercial grower's association and almost all of the garden clubs in San Diego County participated. The floral committee concerned itself with co-ordinating the major flower shows in the area. Compiling information, the group formed a calendar in which each month had a flower, a plant and a tree of the month. Natives, profuse bloomers, easy to grow plants in abundant supply were selected. The purpose of the flower, plant, tree calendar was to encourage the planting of these items by the home owner. It was thought that if they were planted, there would be a profusion of green and bloom by the time the Anniversary arrived.

The floral committee invisioned somewhere in the city a statue of St. Francis of Assisi accompanied by a huge basket of flowers. The contents of the basket were to be changed with the months according to the monthly schedule. This was one of the good ideas that never materialized.

However, the world of roses is now richer by one more rose named "San Diego." The idea for the city to have a centennial rose was conceived by Mrs. Betts and Mrs. Zukor. Mrs. Joseph Kenneally, a San Diego Rosarian and a past president of the San Diego Floral Association, was contacted to aid in their quest. Armstrong Nurseries of Ontario, one of the leading American rose nurseries, cooperated and offered two unnamed roses, the choice was a creamy yellow; the other rose, a vibrant pink, was later named Marie Antoinette. The Armstrong Nursery developed about 16,000 San Diego Roses which were sold in San Diego. Distribution of the roses was an accomplishment and contribution of the San Diego Camp Fire Girls. Significant plantings of the rose were made at the County Administration Center on Harbor Drive in the City of San Diego, a contribution of the Camp Fire Girls to the County. The City Beautiful group presented a memorial planting of these roses at Lindberg Field, the San Diego International Airport: planted in honor of the late Marine General Bruno Hochmuth, who had been an avid gardener. A third planting was made in Balboa Park along

Virginia Innis is a former Psychology and Journalism teacher who finds her own therapy in arranging flowers and gardening. As the President of The Floral Association she is busy with things "plant" in Civic and Community affairs.

the Prado in the vicinity of the forthcoming building.

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors joined the 200th Anniversary Board in honoring individuals and associations involved in growing the flower, plant and tree of the month. Proclamations were made naming the designated month Iris month, Rose month, etc. Through this program the outstanding commercial growers, the accomplished non-professional hobbyist and outstanding plant societies and garden clubs were honored. The 200th Anniversary presented engraved silver bowls to all who were honored. However, it was rare, indeed, if any group came to the Board of Supervisors empty handed. Many donated collections and rare specimen to be planted at the County Administration Center.

Mrs. Joan Betts and the Camp Fire Girls donated San Diego Roses for the mass planting at the County Administration centerm. Mrs. Mary Chadwick donated a prize rose garden. The San Diego Chapter of the American Rose society was honored along with rosarians, Mrs. Clarence W. Benson, Richard D. Streeper and Fred W. Walter. Mrs. S. Peter Barbic, a commercial rose grower, was honored as were Mrs. Clifford Palm, Rolando Women's Club, and Mrs. Martin Engler, Camp Fire Girls.

The San Diego Fuchsia Society was honored along with its president, Mrs. William C. Knotts. Mrs. Lewis Stubbs and Mrs. Bob Hastings donated fuchsia plants to the County Center. Mary Bray Watson participated, also.

The San Diego Orchid Society was honored and Mr. Frank Fordyce, President of the Association. Also honored were J. L. "Andy" Anderson and William Thomas of the Ridgeway Orchid Gardens. An orchid collection was donated to the County Administration by Frank Fordyce.

Begonias were recognized by the honoring of Mrs. Kathryn Hunter, owner of the Rosecroft Begonia Gardens.

Mrs. L. L. Carringer accepted the honors of the Flower Arranger's Guild. Mrs. D. J. Arnold accepted the silver cup for the San Diego Chapter of Ikebana International.

The San Diego Camellia Society was honored through Samuel E. Foster, President. Many huge camellia bushes were donated.

Florists and flower growers who donated many arrangements and flowers for the County Administration center and 200th events were: Fred Weston, President of the San Diego Flower Growers Association; Clayton Emsback, Carnation grower; Edwin and Robert Frazee, North County Bulb growers; Robert Hall of Hall Inc.; Howard S. Brown, Wholesale Florist; Mrs. Alice Zukor, Broadway Florist; and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Aschbrenner, Carnations.

Accepting honors for cacti were C. Hardin of Hardin Cacti Specialties and Walter Greenwood, president of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society. As a contribution to the 200th Anniversary, the society landscaped a portion of San Diego's historic Mission San Diego de

PHOTO BY BETTY MACKINTOSH

Alcala. (See president Jim Stalsonburg's article in Dec-Jan. '70 CALIFORNIA GARDEN.)

The San Diego Dahlia Society was honored through its president, Dr. J. W. Troxell with Geral L. Lohman and Mrs. S. Middleton.

Nurseries honored were Walter Anderson Nursery, Presidio Nursery, Mission Hills Nursery and Mr. Charles Parker of the Green Thumb Nursery, who donated marguerites to the County Administration Center.

The Men's Garden Club asked Jim Kirk, past president, to accept their silver bowl.

The San Diego Chapter of the American Iris Society had in the past donated to the Center the iris rhizomes which produce the most beautiful irises around any public building in Southern California.

Accepting thanks for the San Diego Friendship Garden at the County Administration Center were: the late Roy Takahashi, John Sveyenaga, Mr. Moto, Bruce Askawa and Mrs. Donald A. Innis, president of the County Civic Center Garden Club.

It was almost a year later that the past president of the County Civic Center Garden Club returned as the president of the San Diego Floral Association to accept the honors for the society. The Association felt most honored and wished to share with the readers of this magazine, the beautiful proclamation which was received.

Two special honors were given by the 200th Anniversary Committee before the board of Supervisors. Paul Ecke, Poinsettia grower, had received a silver bowl and thanks for the many flowers he annually donates to decorate the County Building during the Christmas holidays. The Committee called Mr. Ecke back to present the honor of "Don" upon him, one of the highest honors given during the celebration. A second person was made a "Don," San Diego County Garden Supervisor, James Saraceno, who had worked with the 200th Committee on the selection committee and who had made contact with the individuals. Supervisor De Graff Austin expressed a special thanks to Mr. Saraceno for planning the ceremonies and for getting the people there for the awards.

The ceremonies always attracted a certain amount of attention, some resulted in stories and pictures in the papers and magazines and on television. The County Administration center is richer for all the lovely plants that have been given and are growing there.

Alice and Allan Zukor

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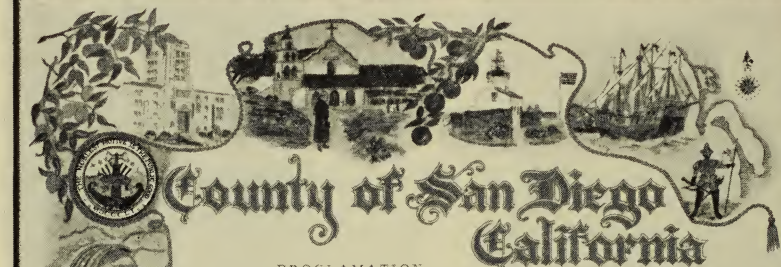

County of San Diego California

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the 200th Anniversary, Inc. has requested the Board of Supervisors to proclaim the month of October, 1969 as San Diego Floral Association Month in recognition of their being the voice of good gardening education and civic beautification in San Diego County; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego Floral Association was founded in 1907 with Mr. Alfred D. Robinson as first president and incorporated in the State in 1910, thus making it the oldest garden club in the City of San Diego and the oldest in San Diego County: and

WHEREAS, the San Diego Floral Association in 1909 originated California Garden Magazine, a bi-monthly horticultural magazine. This publication is the oldest horticultural magazine in continuous publication in the United States; and

WHEREAS, 400 members of the Association receive the magazine but it is enhanced by subscriptions of 18 garden clubs affiliated with the Association, many citizens throughout San Diego County and the State of California, as well as citizens in 30 states throughout the United States - and subscribers in 9 foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego Floral Association has promoted the knowledge of floriculture, and has stimulated the intelligent love of flowers to beautify the homes, schools, and public grounds of San Diego County; and

WHEREAS, the Association has an impressive library which is used by its members and affiliates, and which is open to writers and students of horticulture; and

WHEREAS, the Association backs the aims of the San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation to establish a definite garden center in Balboa Park to further and develop educational and scientific research in horticulture and floriculture; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim October, 1969 as "San Diego Floral Association Month" in San Diego County and does also commend the San Diego Floral Association for their endeavors in making San Diego County a more beautiful place to live.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego, State of California, this twentieth day of October, 1969.

Supervisor 1st District

Supervisor 2nd District

Supervisor 3rd District

Supervisor 4th District

Supervisor 5th District

AUSTRALIAN GIFT

Hakea poriflora to be planted in park.

PHOTO BY BETTY MACKINTOSH

As a gift to San Diego in honor of our 200th Anniversary the Government of Australia wished to give to the City of San Diego enough eucalyptus trees in soil to plant one street. The Australians wished this street to be named "Street of Eucalyptus." Unfortunately but understandably, the Department of Agriculture would not allow these trees in soil to be brought into the country. So — an alternative was that a section of Balboa Park would be designated as an Australian Park and seeds of many kinds of plants (not just eucalyptus) would be sent to the City Nursery at Balboa Park to be raised and planted.

On the 30th of October 1969, officially declared Australian Day by the 200th Committee, His Excellency, Sir Keith Waller, the Australian Ambassador to the United States, made the dedication of the Anniversary gifts from the Australian Government. A native grown plant could not be presented, but a symbolic San Diego grown Brisbane Box (*Tristania conferta*) whose parentage traced to Australia, was used. At the same time a pair of tree-climbing kangaroos (*Dendrolagus goodfellow*) was presented to the San Diego Zoo, and a large watercolor painting by Australian artist George Crossley was presented to the Fine Arts Gallery.

PHOTO BY BETTY MACKINTOSH

Geijera parvifolia, first species to be planted in new sector. Interesting tree with effect of willow.

None of us will really see much of this park (sector) for another year. But — the first shipment of seeds has arrived and it is estimated that the first plants can be set out in about a year. Seeds received are:

Acacia drummondii	*Acacia rigens*
Banksia collina	*Callistemon brachyandrus*
Callitris endlicheri	*Calothamnus quadrifidus*
Cassia odorata	*Casurina stricta*
Eucalyptus cerebra	*Eucalyptus cordata*
Eucalyptus ferrestiana	*Eucalyptus macrocarpa*
Eucalyptus mannifera	*Eucalyptus miniata*
Eucalyptus Nicholii	*Eucalyptus occidentalis*
Eucalyptus platypus	*Eucalyptus preissiana*
Eucalyptus sepulcralis	*Eucalyptus tetragona*
Eucalyptus tetraptera	*Eucalyptus viridis*
Geijera parvifolia	*Goddia lotifolia*
Grevillea robusta	*Hakea laurina*
Hakea teretifolia	*Indigofera australis*
Melaleuca incana	*Melaleucawilsonii*
Petrophile pedunculata	*Swainsona galegifolia*

There will be more shipments of seeds.

This Australian Sector should be of interest to Southern Californians and visitors, because all of the plants are those of the arid region of Australia. (Grow well with little water!)

Because many of the plants to be grown are from sections of Australia where the soil is predominately acid and San Diego soil is generally alkaline, the way in which the park botanic department plans to adapt these plants to open soil is quite interesting. First a core sample, made by drilling into the earth, to determine the soil profile will be made. This will aid in planting and drainage, etc. planning. Next — a wood chip mulch about 4 inches thick made of the pine and eucalyptus tree trimmings collected by city tree maintenance crews in their routine clean-up will be placed on the soil. This mulch will be maintained for one year before seedlings will be planted. This will serve two purposes: (1) it is an acid mulch and will make the soil better for the seedlings, and (2) all of these plants are shallow rooted and this mulch will help to keep these roots cool until the plants adapt.

We all know how well the eucalyptus, acacias, etc. have adapted to our area. As many of these gift plants have never been grown in California, it could develop that trees, shrubs and ground covers which will be of untold value in adding vegetation to arid, almost barren backcountry regions will be discovered. We all know that our population increase in this area is making us a potential "air polution" area. Plants help to aleviate some of this problem. These plants may help us increase vegetation without creating a more serious water problem.

Don't look too hard for this Park (sector) for a few years, but I am sure that in time this small spot on the NE of Balboa Park near Pershing and 28th will be one of the beauty spots of San Diego — and — many new plants should be of interest to both professional and hobbyist gardeners as well as to educators.

(The plant — can and all — was placed in a hole in the sector. After the ceremony the plant was returned to the Nursery — ground not prepared yet.)

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A Do-it-yourselfer builds a

Fly-Thru Bird Cage

by Dixon J. Arnold

PHOTO BY BETTY MACKINTOSH

It all started the day we moved to San Diego from our last assignment in the East. He came down the street and held out his large hand in welcome and introduced himself, "I'm Hutch." He then glanced over all the packing crates, boxes, and especially the stuff piled up in the garage. I could tell right away that his interest was in garages and what they might hold for a man to work with; truly an artisan and technician. He then observed with a deep look of concern, "You don't have any cement!" My closely guarded reaction was that this was indeed a profound statement and that I not only did not have any cement, never had any cement in my life but, furthermore, would probably never have any cement . . . ever! I meekly replied that it was true, I did not have any cement and why in the world would a man need any? Hutch said, and this was going to be the most philosophical period of my life . . . little did I know it at the time, "Every man should have a bag of cement around the house, just in case he wants to make something!"

I knew then I was in deep trouble and that if I was going to get along with this new neighbor and take advantage of his experience, I'd better get a bag of cement . . . right away. I made a special trip to the do-it-yourself and after looking with horror at those huge bags of cement weighing 94 pounds, I finally found an accommodating salesman who suggested a bag of "redi-mix" weighing only 60 pounds. I could handle this, so I took it home and put it in the corner of the garage; when Hutch came down to check I pointed it out to him. He seemed pleased with the action so far. But that was only the beginning! I tell all my friends about the 60 pound bag of concrete that has cost me more than a thousand bags of cement and at least five thousand man hours of labor. It's still going on.

Having been a transport pilot in the Air Force for 28 years I had led a somewhat sheltered life. I had never mixed a shovel of cement, driven very few nails, and never, never gotten my hands dirty . . . up to now! We moved into this fairly new house that the builders certainly hadn't ruptured themselves with adding little niceties to make it more livable. So, the first thing I decided we needed was a small walk beside the house, no real big deal I figured; so I called my friend, Hutch. Hutch said it was too big a job for me, so we contracted that one out. That project took two yards of concrete; I watched closely and learned something about making the forms for pouring and how not to fill a 500 pound wheelbarrow.

Next came a requirement for a low concrete block border for a flower bed, later an extension to the walk, then a low decorative brick wall for the east side of the house and on and on until we come to the waterfall that must be built in the very corner of the back yard. It had to be oriental style because now the whole yard was taking on a sort of quasi Rudyard Kipling look. But it's the fly-thru bird cage we want to talk about. It all started with the waterfall. First we built a two sided concrete block screen about 5 feet high in the corner of the yard using Korean style concrete blocks. We then dug out the pool shape from in front of the screen and made arrangements for delivery of two yards of concrete. For reenforcement of the concrete we bought a huge hunk of wire mesh the builders call slab wire. It comes in a heavy gauge wire a little larger than coat hanger wire and it is put together to form a series of 6 inch squares, large open squares. The wire mesh comes about 8 feet high and as long as you want. It's fairly heavy and conforms to a natural round shape that looks at once like a huge bird cage. As it stood there waiting to be used in the concrete pool, the birds decided it was home and took over. I gave it to them. Living as we do in a neighborhood of children, cats and dogs, we couldn't very well have many wild birds. Friends visiting from Texas before the fly-thru cage had remarked that what they missed most here in Southern California was the birds singing. Now it seemed that almost immediately the birds found themselves a home in the fly-thru. They took over.*

I looked up from my work on the waterfall one time to see that at least 50 finches, a host, had taken over the cage. At this point you may be interested in the plurality of birds; Hutch says a gaggle of geese, a cast of hawks, a bevy of quail, a brood of chickens, a flight of doves, a covey of partridges, etc. By all means, it appeared that the fly-thru was exactly what the birds had been searching for, a home offering protection from people and animals and at the same time one from which they could easily escape.

I should have mentioned that as more and more concrete work was going on in the back yard, we decided to remove all the grass. It was unsightly, dead in spots and followed no regular pattern of origin. Besides, every time I would hit the ground with a pick I would hit a huge rock just under the surface. It was no wonder that the grass wouldn't do well, so we decided to take it all up along with all the rocks. So all this time we're operating on just plain dirt. The dirt floor of the fly-thru was appealing to the birds and they began to take dust baths.

The fly-thru cage caught on rapidly and I could see that it had to be finished properly for maximum occupancy so we embellished it further by constructing a conical roof of one-quarter inch re-

*The cage is approximately 6 ft. tall and 3 ft. in diameter. The ends of the slab wire were held together with light wire.

(Continued on page 27)

Mrs. Marx in Patio. Large Nephrolepis at top is a "fishtail" fern.

Pot Plants . . .

A Pleasant Addiction

by Dorothy Marx

PHOTOS BY BETTY MACKINTOSH

A love of growing plants is as instinctive as a love of pets and neither should be acquired unless one is willing to accept the care with the rewards. Perhaps my own earliest memory was delightful appreciation of pink-flowered oxalis in a sunny kitchen window. For me a house with no pot plants could scarcely be home and the subtle redolence of moist earth after watering is as satisfying as freshly-brewed coffee or a batch of newly-baked cookies.

Gardening where winters are long and cold vastly increases the interest in pot-gardening, but even where tender plants have no threat of frost the charm of plants indoors as decorative accents cannot be denied. Plants near windows and glass doors provide a happy transition from the outdoor garden. Today even the bathroom can and often does have its private garden.

The decision to move to La Jolla was made by a tennis-playing husband who would settle for no less than the best climate for this sport in the United States. His gardening wife was mercifully unaware that she was moving to an area which may well have some of the worst soil and water in the United States.

When we made the decision to move West we had about 300 miscellaneous pot plants of which some, or the plants from which they were produced, had been ours for many years. One large *Begonia ricinifolia* had been inherited thirty years before from a family moving out as we moved in. Painfully we parted with about 200 plants and carefully groomed the remaining for the rigid inspection of men from the United States Department of Agriculture who examined soil and plants about a week before our exodus.

Armed with a certificate of approval, we filled our car including trunk with plants, large and small, each potted and in its own plastic bag. As the car filled and precious plants had still not been placed, we squeezed a large basket of plants between the two front seats and placed the last two plants on the front floor. Fortunately, Willy, our old dachshund, was more than content to ride on a lap for 3000 miles!

At the California border inspectors scarcely glanced at the plants but checked the signatures of the New York inspectors with care and passed our car full of plants almost without comment.

The trip, in late April, had been uneventful and most plants arrived in good condition. Willy had crushed a few in the front seat basket and the sun had burned a large staghorn fern severely through the back window. A burro's tail sedum (*Sedum morganianum*) in the trunk had lost most of its "leaves" but, surprisingly, the plants in the trunk stood the ride best as apparently the car's white color reflected the sun's rays.

The plants were unloaded May 1, 1967 and by the time our furniture arrived ten days later, the patio was furnished with nearly a hundred plants, many of them hung from substantial hooks put on the ceiling beams. While living in the empty house awaiting the van, we not only planned our landscaping but visited nurseries and added large specimens of *Schefflera,* a Kentia palm *(Howeia belmoreana),* a fiddle-leaf fig *(Ficus lyrata)* and the common *Philodendron oxycardium* which soon was attaching itself to the patio walls.

Planted beside our house so that its branches stretched out over the large patio was a large Cup-of-gold vine *(Solandra hartwegii).* Starved and thirsty from long neglect it daily dropped such quantities of yellow leaves that, in our ignorance, we nearly removed it as a nuisance. Its strong upward branches which could support hanging plants and provide a focal for our patio picture save it and, responding to care, it now drops few leaves (but many blossoms) and is never completely out of bloom. It sprawls, large and vigorous, over the top of the open patio and across the entire width of the house, perfuming the air

Dorothy Marx has been growing plants as "long as she can remember." She is a National Council of State Garden Clubs Judge with a Masters Certificate and is a Council Landscape Critic. She teaches and lectures on flower arranging and house plants and their care. She is one of the founders and is president of the La Jolla Garden Club.

Staghorn Fern

At the extreme left is a climbing fern Lygodium japonicum, hanging plant in left center is Rhipsalis "Kew Gardens."

each evening with its huge blossoms. It is the "tree" on which numerous ferns, shade-loving succulents, bromeliads and orchids are hung.

Today our patio is a pleasant jungle featuring ferns. Our dramatic moosehead *(Platycerium grande),* mounted and hung on the house wall draws visitors like a magnet. Several staghorn ferns, two *Davallias,* a beautiful deer's tongue fern *(Polypodium lingua),* assorted, lacy green "Boston" ferns *(Nephrolepis),* and a *Pteris childsii* hang above maidenhairs *(Adiantums),* the mother fern *(Asplenium bulbiferium),* and assorted other plants. My favorite fern is a graceful climber, *Lygodium japonicum,* which is over six feet tall and still growing.

We brought "three *Hoyas* to La Jolla" and one, little *H. bella,* which was a sturdy houseplant in New York, shows plainly that it preferred a sunny window there to the cool coastal climate here. *H. carnosa variegata* and *H. Silver Pink* quickly adapted themselves to life in the west.

Begonias love the atmospheric moisture but dislike the Colorado River water so much that, before we learned the art of leaching by copious watering, we had lost most of our rexes and, as a last resort, put nearly all *begonias* from the East out of their pots in shady areas around the yard. California-raised *begonias* which grow happily on our patio are *B. Sophie Cecile,* a handsome silver-spotted cane-type with deeply-lobed leaves, *B. Freddie* with enormous rounded leaves and the well-known *B. maphil (Cleopatra). B. Ricky Minter* and *B. Madame Queen* are young and promising plants. We found that all *begonias* require protection from ocean winds.

Rhipsalis capilliformis did well in New York but likes it better here and we have added several other *rhipsalis* which are fascinating members of the cactus tribe. *R. Kew Gardens* is fast-growing and has flat stems several feet long and *R. pachyptera* has flat, epiphyllum-like, reddish stems.

A favorite plant is the dwarf, yellow-flowered jasmine *(Jasminum parkeri)* which we have had for six years and it is still not six inches tall. Other pets are the handsome *tillandsias* which are so decorative planted in sphaghum-filled pockets of weathered wood and hung on our *Solandra "tree".* We appreciated our *Spathyphyllum Mauna Loa* which bears white, anthurium-like flowers nearly all the time and the dainty Star of Bethlehem *(Campanula isophylla alba)* which is covered for many months with white flowers. It also insists on wind-protection and lots of water.

Already my feeling for the tropical paradise which is San Diego is personal and prejudiced. The climate is not more warm or more lovely than the friendly and generous Westerners who have welcomed us and filled our garden with plants which have overflowed from their own.

Advice to a Would Be Pot Addict

IF YOU WOULD CREATE a pleasing picture with your pot plants you must have unity. It must never be seen as a collection of unrelated plants in unrelated containers. Use similar containers and similar plants. Let one kind of plant be dominant. Provide accent plants and try to feature plants in bloom. Group your plants remembering that, as with all landscaping, it is the total effect and not the individual plant that is important. There are always an infinite number of combinations to try and some of us find pleasure in creating still lifes of living green by arranging and re-arranging plants much as a little girl arranges her dollhouse furniture.

Continued next page

Chocolate Bells II

by Helen V. Witham

NOT MANY PEOPLE around here can remember picking wildflowers at Del Mar in 1893, but Alice Rainford is one who can. Miss Rainford writes, in answer to our query (see California Garden V. 60-No. 2, April-May 1969, p. 8) about the medallion given as an award for "Best Zinnia" in a flower show possibly thirty-five years ago:

"Your articles carry me back to the days of my childhood 75 or 80 years ago when there were many wildflowers to be found. During the year preceding the Chicago Exposition, I think 1893, I gathered near Del Mar for a woman who was painting a picture of Wild Flowers of Southern California to be sent to the Exposition. Her husband was a postal clerk who in the postal car on the Santa Fe saw the entire district and decided that the area near Del Mar was the finest display between San Diego and Los Angeles.

My Mother was then postmistress there so he asked her to let me gather a few, pack carefully, and bring to his car door with the mail each day that spring. There were fine clumps of *Delphinium cardinale* south of Del Mar about one mile, also near where Hiway 5 cuts back of Del Mar; and near the base of old Torrey Pine Road the yellow Sea Dahlia hung down over the road in masses—can't recall its name at the moment. [*Coreopsis maritima*]* In later years I used to visit the Kearney Mesa near a road used by the Scripps; it ran from Miramar to the rail stop they used on the Santa Fe. That was the only place I found *Fritillaria biflora*. Very hard adobe soil held pools of water after spring rains and around these pools were Chocolate Lilies.

When Mr. Valentien first came to San Diego to paint his collection of wild flower pictures for Miss Scripps he did not have a car and I had just obtained a 2-cylinder Maxwell with a jump seat on the back—I don't know why they called it that unless it was because the one who sat there could easily jump off, shovel in hand, and dig us out of sand or mud whichever we were stuck in. Mr. and Mrs. Valentien and I gathered specimens for his pictures and I think you will find a picture of Fritillaria among his collection. You could perhaps tell by his treatment of the flower if he was the designer of the medallion you wrote of. He was active in the Floral Association and designed many things used by it: vases, the first flower cover used: *Romneya coulteri* [Mattilija Poppy]*.

I gave to the Association recently his original design, which after they used it he gave me. The Association not having much money had generous patrons. The Jessops and Ernsting's Jewelry Store and Mr. German all gave things for prizes, and I know of several medals and trophies which Mr. Valentien designed and the jeweller executed. I hope this may help you in your search for information about the medallion. I presume Mr. Valentien's pictures are in the Library of the Natural History Museum. They are wonderful. They were in Miss Scripps' Library at the Bishop's School."

Sincerely,

Alice M. Rainford

*Names added by author.

Ed Note: Miss Rainford celebrated her 90th birthday on January 11th. Happy Birthday.

Helen V. Witham, a native San Diegan, has always been interested in wildflowers. She constructed the canyon trail wildflower garden in her home 7 years ago. For the past 5 years she has been studying, writing, and lecturing on the native plants. She is an active member of The California Native Plant Society and the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers and Native Plants. She is assistant Curator of Botany at the Natural History Museum where she also teaches classes and leads nature walks.

Pots (Continued)

Discard

Discard ailing plants and be alert to opportunities to add new plants to your collection. Renew old plants by division or cuttings. Unusual plants and plants grown unusually well should be your goal.

Care

Culture is important since no matter how wise in the ways of decorating one may be, no one can arrange mediocre plants into a beautiful display. Lush, healthy plants will exude charm even in unattractive containers. Ideally the hobbyist will find the care of plants more a joy than a chore.

Groom

Good grooming habits are usually enough to discouragee diseases and unwelcome insects. An aerosol houseplant pesticide will control aphids, mealy bugs, worms or scale. Protect delicate ferns, large-leaved begonias and burro's tail sedum, which suffers when shaken, from strong winds. Poor drainage is the biggest bugaboo of pot gardening. It is safer to place the pot in a saucer where excess water can be seen and emptied than in a glazed pot with no drainage hole. And, of course, a pretty plant should not have to compete for attention with a fancy pot.

Variety

Don't overlook the charm of hanging plants and try to plant them in wire baskets which, although needing more frequent watering, are nearly invisible and so do not detract from the plants. Many plants, especially ferns and the like, will grow through the open-work frame forming a rounded ball of green. Soaking such plants in a washtub once or twice a week seems more effective than more frequent waterings from above.

RAINFORD
Flower Shop

Flowers for all Occasions
3334 Fifth Ave. 291-6111

Fuchsias . . . .

"Confiding Love"

By Helen Hayes Knotts
President, San Diego Fuchsia Society

ABOUT ONE-HUNDRED and fifty years ago flowers were commonly used as expressions of sentiment and feeling, such as love, friendship, anger, distain, remorse, and the like. This floral language was truly eloquent though silent. For example, if a bouquet, corsage or nosegay of Fuchsias was received, the sender, according to Flora's truest language was "Confiding (his) Love." If the feeling was mutual, did the "desired one," perhaps, attach some of those beautiful blossoms to each of her ear rings? According to Asa Gray, the great 19th century American botanist, one species of this exotic flower is called "Ladies' Ear Drops" and is described as "red calyx the petals, normally violet or blue droop in profusion hanging on long peduncles from the axils of the leaves. . . ."

If she wished to reply differently she could consult a small volume titled:

DROPS FROM FLORA'S CUP
or the
POETRY OF FLOWERS
with a
FLORAL VOCABULARY
By
Miss Mary M. Griffin
Boston, Mass.
1846

This little volume lists flowers and their meaning to cover every emotion.

Helen Hayes Knotts, President of the San Diego Fuchsia Society, is a fuchsia hobbyist who not only grows them but collect articles about them or decorated with them. Also, she has an interest in history. Her article is the happy result of her browsing through antique books from her family library on botany and flower lore.

"Fuchsia" is spelled the same way in this little book as in Webster's Dictionary, dated 1882, but the pronunciation is given as (fook' si a) from Fuchs. The plant was named by the French missionary and botanist, Carlos Plumier, in 1703 for the German botanist, Leonard Fuchs. Today, no doubt through popular use, the American College Dictionary give the pronunciation as (fu shá).

In the past great license was taken with the spelling, even in circulated publications such as "Lippincott's Monthly Magazine Advertiser" where an advertisement read:

"OUR 1887 NEW
STAMPING OUTFIT!"
"With book of ornamental stitches patterns etc. etc. . . . including "1 bunch of FUSCHIAS" etc., etc. . . ."

San Diego had streets that were remembered by a similar phonetic spelling, I learned recently when attending a S.D. Historical Society Institute. Irene Phillips, a local historian, said that when she first came to San Diego a friend told her she would not lose her way if she remembered the streets she must cross would spell:

Front	F
Union	U
State	S
Columbia	C
India	I
Atlantic	A

My search to verify this bit of early data put me in contact with many interested and helpful people and ended with Dave Schoolcraft, Title Officer, of Land Title Insurance Company. He graciously checked early San Diego maps to verify this. Thus proving the Fuchsia's statis as a first flower family in San Diego.

The Fuchsia is a favorite in the gardens of costal California and in sunparlors and conservatories from the Middle West to New England. These exotic flowers are found growing wild from Central Mexico to the tip of Chile. Today botanists recognize over one hundred wild species.

Ralph Bailey in "A Gardener Goes to South America" writes of "journeying south from Santiago, among the Chilean lakes — traveling through gorges, over cliffs, across moss grown bridges, past fields (fields mind you) of wild Fuchsia, a Horticultural delight ————."

Fuchsia culture is rewarding to the beginning gardener, for soft wood or tip cuttings taken when prunning, dipped in a rooting hormone and placed in vermiculite or clean sand, will produce excellent plants in a short time.

The red and orange varieties take more sun; pastels and doubles do best in a lath house, patio, or sheltered from direct rays of the sun.

It is hard to reduce the beauty and satisfaction Fuchsias give to mere words on paper. Each year new introductions become more breathtakingly spectacular in beauty and size.

John Cole's book & craft shop
780 Prospect, La Jolla
454-4766 454-0814

Root Vegetables

How to Grow and Eat Them

by Rosalie F. Garcia

ROOTS AS FOOD are as old as man and beast. The American Colonists brought them from Europe where they had been cultivated and used as vegetables as far back as the fifteenth century. Hybridizers are constantly creating new varieties, even new vegetables, so we can have a varied and balanced diet, if we would choose it. But we hear much of malnutrition and overweight, which often go together, due to eating too many carbohydrates and fatty foods. These are necessary, but must be a part of a larger selection of proteins, amino acids, vitamins and minerals. Vegetarians can get all the food elements they need from vegetables, except amino acids which must come from meat or meat products. When our scientists come up with a vegetable that has as much protein and amino acids as a steak, a way of life will certainly disappear. No ranches, no hog or chicken farms, no fishing! Who knows?

But, in the meantime, we must have at least the meat products to go with our cereals and green and root vegetables to make a balanced diet. From the roots we get carbohydrates, including very digestible sugars, and a concentration of the basic needed vitamins, especially Vitamin A and minerals and a little protein. The nutritionists tell us that at least one of the roots should be included in one meal of the daily diet.

Root vegetables are among the easiest to grow, have fewer diseases, and retain their food value after harvest longest. Our markets abound in radishes, carrots, beets, turnips and parsnips, the main table roots that Americans will eat. Why raise them? Mainly because one can harvest them at the peak of their succulence and can have varieties superior in flavor to commercial products which are cultivated for their shipping stamina. Also, freshly harvested vegetables furnish the mineral and vitamin content at peak strength. Nutrition aside, the taste and textures are so superior that a dimension is added to the quality of living (and eating) that is due one with the drive to plant, cultivate and harvest this "superiority" as an everyday pursuit. Compare a radish the size of a finger-tip for sweetness and crispness with the strong, pithy or tough market offering; the carrot so brittle and sweet one must ease it gently out of the soil so it won't break off; the beet half-size but free of fibers, popped into hot water and steamed for twenty minutes, instead of the hour or more it takes for the mature beet; or the parsnip eased out of the deep loose earth when it is stiff but pliable and not rubbery; the turnip when it is sweet, tender and creamy of texture. Few of these qualities does one bring home from the market.

Nearly all root vegetables have tops that are attractive as plants, and since one can harvest them a few at a time, the symmetry of planting can be maintained by putting in seeds where a plant has been removed, continuing the crop.

All root vegetables are really cool weather crops and their adaptation to Southern California is far from complete, except for the carrot which is really better here than elsewhere.

Plantings from September to May provide the best products. Later they are tough, strong and woody. All need a deep (two feet or more) loose soil, rich in humus and sand. A mixture of soil, amendments like the Loamite products, manure and sand should be worked into adobe and clay soils or the roots will be stunted, knobbed or divided. A raised bed filled with a prepared soil will do fine. The edible roots of carrots, parsnips and Oriental radishes will go down a foot and the sustaining roots will go a foot farther. Carrots planted at the edge of a raised bed, which may have roses or some other sun-loving plant, or along a driveway are decorative with their ferny tops; beets produce rich green tops that are decorative with their red tinges. Once a good loose, rich soil is mixed all root vegetables will thrive without further fertilizers. A slight acid Ph, which can come from humus, is very helpful to all, especially beets.

RADISHES (*Raphamus sativus*): If there are children in the family, introduce them to gardening with a package of radish seeds. Radishes need only two inches of loose rich soil, will come up with little green ears in a week, and many are ready to eat in less than a month. The Globe varieties, the red early Cherry Belle, Scarlet Button, Rapid Red, Comet and Crimson Giant (all Burpee's) are the best quick growing varieties. Those with white bottoms like Sparkler, take a little longer, get strong and pithy more quickly, but if watched and harvested ten days to two weeks after they come up are sweet and crisp. The French Breakfast, oblong, red and quick growing, is just the thing to make getting up for breakfast an ambition. Go out and pull up a bunch of finger tip size nuggets, all red and crisp, run them under the faucet and eat them, tops and all with the bacon and eggs. A little of the bacon drippings thinned with water and vinegar or lemon juice in a side dish is fine for dunking them.

The icicle white varieties, which are best at about three inches long and pencil slim, take about six weeks to develop, and need at least six inches of loose soil. They are delicious sliced thin in salads, on the finger food plate, or just plain with a sandwich or hamburger.

The huge sweet Japanese radishes over a foot long that require a soil which is cultivated more than two feet in depth are worth the trouble. Their tops are sort of scraggly, so they should be put in a spot where decoration is no requirement. Almost a staple in Japan where they are pickled, they are more digestible when raw than the ordinary radish, and a good nibbling, low calorie food. Seeds are not available in local seed racks, but sets like those for horseradish can be ordered from the big seed houses.

There are black radishes, both round and long, which do better in colder climates and make a dramatic and pungent addition to the salad plate.

The most pungent of all is the horseradish which needs a very deep soil and tastes about as good at maturity as when young. It is hotter than most peppers at any stage. It can be grated fresh for service with meats, especially boiled beef, hot or cold, and pickled to keep for dressings and other seasoning. A few sets from the nursery will fill the needs of most families.

CARROTS (*Daucus carota*): We are indebted to the French for the carrot as we know it with particular credit going to M. Vitormius who is said to have devel-

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Rosalie Garcia comes from a "family of vegetable growers" who have been growing vegetables in America for 300 years. She says she is a compulsive grower who loves to try new things. A graduate of UCLA and a former teacher, this vegetable lady has many talents and a vegetable and flower garden which is very interesting.

oped it from wild varieties in the 16th century. The French have also raised the uses and cooking of it to a high art. Too many Americans shave off the skin, throw it in a pot of water, boil it until it is almost a mush and then lather it with butter or a white sauce. The French steam the whole carrot in a little water in a tightly covered pan until it is almost tender, run cold water over it, slide off the skin and serve it sort of crisp without much seasoning with meat, fish or fowl. They may shred it and serve it in a mound with a touch of spice or mixed seasoning. Since carrots have a high sugar content, they taste sweet without seasoning. The time to pull them gently with a scoop, so as not to break them, is when the outer core is much larger than the inner core. One can tell by the top. If it has shrunk so that the leaves cover the whole top of the carrot, it is too old. The cheap ones in the market are those which are mostly inner core and woody. The others have the tender outside and are pliable to the touch and not rubbery.

Although there are many varieties of carrots, the long slender ones of commerce being fine when fresh, the home gardener will do well to concentrate on the French or Chantenay varieties which are short and stubby. They are ready to eat in about two months and are most delightful when pulled when about thumb size and eaten in their skins, both raw and cooked. A few raw sticks of any carrot will satisfy hunger and replenish energy with fewer calories than candy or cookies, and will give vitamins and minerals as a bonus.

Carrot and beet seeds do not germinate quickly. When one is about ready to give up and replant, tiny hairs of the carrots and parsnips begin to show and even later little purplish lobes of beets make a fuzz on the earth.

PARSNIPS (*Pastinoca sativa*): This is a neglected vegetable, and not too easy to grow. Seeds must be fresh, often are not, which makes it hard to get them to come up. Saving some from plants allowed to go to seed and planting as soon as they are matured helps. They thrive in the same soil conditions as carrots, but take up to three months to mature, and, frankly, have not adapted to Southern California conditions. They have a distinct flavor when steamed and skinned. Although they are not best when eaten raw, a real young one does have a spicy and creamy flavor.

Another vegetable that looks and grows much like the parsnip is salsify or oyster plant. It is sort of stringy and needs working on for this climate, but the flavor of oysters is distinct and it adds much to soups and stews if harvested before it gets too woody.

TURNIPS(*Brassica ropa*): This is a cold weather vegetable which came to us from Siberia by way of England, and I venture to say would not be eaten in Southern California except that it is such a staple in colder climates from which so many Californians have come. It has never really adapted to our climate. It will grow and we have white and yellow ones with and without purple tops, but none have the sweet taste and crisp texture of a New England or Iowa turnip, or even those of the Southern states that have cold winters. Frost improves the taste. Even though the turnip itself grows better in the colder climates, it was the Southerners who really adopted it and made it their own. It grows quickly and easily. Its tops are rich in vitamins and minerals and frost does not kill it, so it was formerly the only source of green food during the winter. In the poorest home a pot of turnips and greens seasoned with slices of pork and corn bread was a good meal. Its sweet-bitter taste, which we do not get in ours, is beloved by Southerners of all economic brackets.

Many turnips are now in California and one sees stacks of the greens grown from a variety that furnishes greens only and has no edible root, the Shogoin, as Burpee calls it. These greens are more tender than the tops of the root varieties and they come in from December to March when we have our coldest weather! My favorites are Purple top, Golden Ball, and a pure white called Tokyo Cross. It grows in a little over a month to a round white semi-globe. A smaller white one, the seeds of which are marked Japanese, is a smaller round root not much bigger than a large radish and is just as good for raw eating as a radish. Its tops are a pale green, but not too good for cooking.

Even rutabagas, or the Swedish turnip as it is often called, can be good here if pulled up when it is about half its mature size, cooked quickly and sort of mellowed with whipped butter or cream. It is often grown in the Midwest and South as hog feed, but after frost has nipped it, it is sweet and more palatable, and much better eating than the ones we grow here.

BEETS (*Beta vulgaris*): Beets come to us much later than some of the roots and were developed and appreciated first in Europe by the Germans and French around 1800. The Germans pickled them and we still do, but the French cooked them and developed many varieties. They have the highest sugar content of all the roots, and the commercial sugar beet is a major source of sugar. The garden beet is also high in vitamin and mineral content, and with its high sugar of a most digestible kind, it is a more valuable addition to the diet than most realize. It even keeps in the canned condition and holds its taste better than any other vegetable. The tiny ones canned and on the shelves are a most palatable addition to a quick meal. Just heat them and serve as is.

They are best planted from November to March, and eaten from February to June. After that they are stringy and woody and almost impossible to cook. The early varieties grow best for us and grow faster, making small round roots. They should be thinned when the leaves are about three or four inches high and cooked like spinach or tossed in a green salad. Soaking the seeds before planting helps and then put them in drills that have been dampened four or five inches deep. (I take along a gallon can of liquid fish, 1 tablespoon to a gallon of water, and drench the drill or hole of nearly everything I plant.) Cover about one half inch with soil and pat it in. Don't water again until the purplish fuzz shows. They respond to slow irrigation between the rows about once a week. When preparing beets for cooking leave stems on about four or five inches in length, which are edible when the skin is rubbed off. Beet greens are among the best, if not too old and stringy, (go well with spinach or mustard greens) served with a dash of bacon drippings and lemon or wine vinegar.

Although, I find the root vegetable mentioned worth growing, having lived in other climates, I do not find them fully adapted to our semi-desert conditions, except carrots. My theory, by no means substantiated by scientific data, is that the edible root which develops partly above ground, gets too much sun and is exposed to our dry air which makes it tougher, more fibrous and lacking in flavor. Also, vegetables which thrive in a somewhat acid soil do not react well to our very alkaline water. Anyway, what I grow tastes better than what I buy!

Avoid Setback

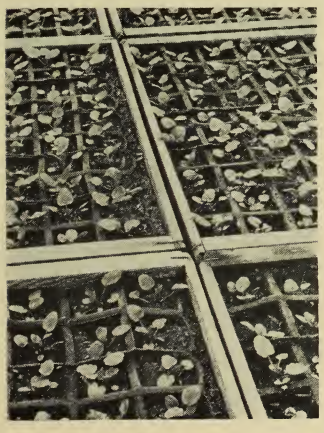
and Shock with Peat Pots

Material obtained from Mr. Ernest Chew, Supervisor of Nursery and Landscaping for Balboa Park, and Mr. George Kempland, Nursery Foreman.

1. Plant seeds in 2¼" peat pots filled to within ½" of top with a mix of ¾ leaf mold and ¼ sand.
2. Pack the pots into a wooden flat made of 3" x 1" stock on ends — 3" x ½" stock on sides and bottom. Fill extra spaces with mix — see lower left picture.
3. Place flat in warm spot (house OK if not in warm sun) and cover with window glass. Keep damp. When first green appears, remove glass.
4. Place flat in sun. (If kept in shade, seedlings will become long and weak.) Check roots as Mr. Chew and Kempland are doing: These roots are too long. This does not injure the plants if they are quickly replaced in flat. When they reach the stage shown in the lower right picture, time to transplant (roots barely showing).
5. Plants can be placed "pot and all" in a 4" peat pot (trees and shrubs). The space in the larger pot can be filled with a mix of ½ leaf mold, ¼ soil and ¼ sand. Place them close together in the flat but spaces need not be filled this time. OR, plants may be placed in prepared beds. Plants will keep growing without setback.

BEWARE: The upper edges must be torn off to the soil level and discarded as shown in the picture below.
DON'T plant fine seeds such as Cinerarias or Begonias or Calceolarias, etc., because the roots are too thin to break through the pots: Can be used if peat pot is completely pulled off and discarded.

Pansies for Alcazar Garden in 2¼" pots with border fill-in.



Calendula, showing how peat pot may be torn off.

Pansy in 4" peat pot showing how roots penetrate the pot.

Photos by Betty Mackintosh.

plantings will be changed when construction is finished.)

—At the present time a Fuchsia garden with Bird of Paradise and Calla Lily can be seen. Farther on some *Ficus mysorensis* and hydrangeas can be seen. The only plant of note in the North area that will remain is the *Cotoneaster parneyi* beside the North ramp.

—One of the few redwoods in San Diego can be seen in the planting circle. It is a *Sequoia sempervirens*.

—At the corner on Harbor drive is a planting of Bird of Paradise.

—Proceed to the "Guardian of the Water" statue by Donald Hord.

—In the cement planter boxes are Yucca.

—The plantings to the North and South of the walkway were done by the County Administration Garden Club. The Sago Palms (*Cycad revoluta*) are accented by Heavenly Bamboo, Morea lily (*Morea iridioides*), Mondo grass (*Ophiopogon japonica*), and Korean Grass (*Zoysia tenuifolia*). The rocks are from Alpine and are covered with lichen. Hawthorn (*Raphiolepis indica rosea*) are found in the background.

—Looking towards the West entrance along the walk are Red Cushion roses and Steeplechase and Flame Kiss Iris. These bloom 12 months of the year.

—In the center circles in the lawn are Cape Chestnut (*Calodendrum capense*).

—Against the building on each side are 2 Cherimoya (*Annona cherimola*). To the N are *Pittosporum crassifolium;* to the S. are Cotoneaster and a Japanese Black Pine (*Pinus thunbergi*).

—Walking off the platform to the N, the background planting is the San Diego rose trailing off into Yellow Cushion roses. The reddish shrub is Ternstroemia (*Ternstroemia gymnanthera*). Under the Palm is a Japanese Black Pine.

—Next to the building S of the ramp the ground cover border is *Gazania.* A Windmill Palm (*Trachycarpus Fortunei*) is flanked by a purple and green flax. Yucca again, and a *Pittosporum crassifolum.*

—A Guadalupe Palm is at the corner, and near the window well is a green Dracena "palm" (*Dracaena draco*).

— End of Walk —

PHOTO BY BETTY MACKINTOSH

D

A Plant Walk

with James Saracino, County Garden Supervisor

The County Administration Building
1600 Pacific Highway

California Garden Presents a self-guided plant walk for your pleasure.

(This page can be folded and removed for convenience.)

A

PHOTO BY BETTY MACKINTOSH

The tour starts at the South Entrance of the County Administration Building.

—The hedge is of Natal Plum (*Carissa Grandiflora*).

—At the walk corner under the Washingtonia Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) are some of the many *Yuccas* noted for their distinct trunk and grey-green foliage.

—In the "island" irises are found under the Senegal Date Palm (*Phoenix reclinata*).

—On both sides of the South Entrance (and all major entrances), trimmed to resemble rounded shrubs, are Bay Leaf Trees (*Laurus nobilis*). The ground cover border is *Gazania*.

—On the right side of the steps is a bush of Heath (*Erica* spp.) and a low Senegal Date Palm. In this bed are Giant Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia nicolai*), *Schefflera*, and *Euforbia* — the small purplish plant and New Zealand Flax (*Phormium tenax*).

—Under the large palm at the jog of the building, two abelias (*Abelia grandiflora*) flank a giant split-leaf philodendron (*Philodendron selloum*).

—Bordering the building are several of the many Strawberry Guava (*Psidium littorale*).

—In the corner under the large Fern pine (*Podocarpus gracilior*) are, in the back, a collection of Giant Bird of Paradise. In the foreground are several varieties of Sun Azaleas (Southern Indica Azaleas), Tasmanian Tree ferns (*Dicksonia antarctica*) and *Fuchsias* and *Camellias*.

—To the right, at the corner of the wing, iris beds and Sun Azaleas are grouped under a Guadalupe Palm (*Erythea edulis*). The large shrub in back of the palm is a viburnum (*viburnum tinus robustum*).

—In front of the emergency exit is a gift of favorite old patent roses from Mary Chadwick.

—At the S.E. corner are two groupings of Cocculus. The plantings of iris beneath were donated by the Iris Society and Mrs. Peter Martin.

—After rounding corner we find a Sabal Palm (*Sabal palmetto*) rarely seen here.

—(Lining Pacific Highway in planter squares are King Palms (*Seaforthia elegans*).)

—Walking N. following the building border planting of Strawberry Guava we find another large Podocarpus. Under it are Tasmanian Tree Ferns, split leaf Philodendron, camellia and hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrobylla*), Aspidistra (*Aspidistra lurida*) towered by *Dizygotheca elegantessima*, a false *aralia*. In the foreground are Lily of the Nile (*Agapanthus africanus*) and the miniature variety 'Peter Pan.'

B

—On each side of the S.E. entrance of Pacific Highway Patio are Mediterranean Fan Palms (*Chamaerops humilis*), which are found on all corners of the Patio walks.

—To the left in the Patio, towering Bird of Paradise are flanked by Guadalupe Fan Palms (*Erythea edulis*). In the foreground is a low border of Leather Saxifrage (*Bergenia Crassifolia*). Through the center from L to R are hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa-sinesis*), Camellia, Fuchsia, begonia, and in the center a small spatula leaf philodendron (looks like Calla leaf) and Clivia (*Clivia miniata*) and a large split-leaf philodendron.

—Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*) border all walks of the patio. The ground borders are seasonal annuals or perennials (Marconi daisies, pansies, etc.)

—The two fountain pools are bordered with Star Jasmine (*Rhynchospermum jasminoides*) and iris.

—Looking at the building one sees 6 large Podocarpus trees.

—The buildings are bordered with camellias donated by Mr. Paul McClelland of Orange County and in the foreground are a collection of Cymbidium orchids donated by Mr. Fordyce.

—In the S. corner is a background of tall Bird of Paradise with the large, oval-leafed tree, *Ficus mysorensis* . . . hydrangeas, fuchsias and Calla Lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*) and a large Washingtonia palm towering over a seedling.

—In the sunnier N.W. section of the patio, flanking the building are Heavenly Bamboo (*Nandina domestica*), Egyptian Papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*), and false aralias.

—In the corner are Senegal Date Palms — note the interesting Palm-like trunks of Bird of Paradise.

—R. side of N. entrance in the background is a fragrant ginger (*Hedychium gardnerianum*), the large yucca have a background of giant Bird of Paradise and a foreground of Star Jasmine. In the center are Hawthorn (*Raphiolepis indica rosea*) and large showy agaves (*Agave Attenuata*) and casual plantings of gladiolus and iris.

—Screening the floodlights are Myrtles (*Myrtus communis*).

—Down the steps and on either side of the flagpole espaliers against the patio retaining walls are Firethorn (*Pyracantha spp.*) interspersed with American Sweet-gum (*Liguidambar styraciflua*). The ground cover is Pyracantha prostrada.

—N. of the steps under the large Podocarpus tree a border of Tam Juniper (*Juniperus sabina*) drifts off into shade azalea (*Kurume Azaleas*), a large flax, violets, and aspidistra.

—Follow a border of Strawberry Guava with 'Peter Pan' agapantha to the corner of the building.

—The North side of the building is now under renovation so

C

Calendar of Care

George James

PLANTS NEED FERTILIZER. Formerly animal manures were the usual source of plant foods used by the gardener, but today these are primarily used for their ability to improve the texture of the soil. Commercial fertilizers, which may be either an organic or an inorganic material are usually used because they have advantages over manures. One of the most important advantages of commercially prepared fertilizers is that the percentages of nutrient content are known. This enables the gardener to apply a specified amount which causes the plants on which it is applied to respond in a similar manner each time the fertilizer is used; in contrast, the nutrient content of the manures is variable, being influenced by the animal, its diet, and the manner in which the manure is handled before being applied to the soil. Manures are usually low in nitrogen and when one desires strong plant growth or only growth, a fertilizer which contains a relatively high percentage of nitrogen is needed. Manures are bulky, so it is necessary to use large amounts to effect the desired growth; and in lawns, if enough is used to stimulate growth, the lawn is buried. With manures there is always the possibility of flies, odor and weeds. By the use of commercial fertilizers, which can be selected with the proper balance of food elements to create growth, flowers, fruit or a combination of these, bulk is not a problem. Commercial fertilizers that derive some of the food elements from organic materials can cause odor when wet, but the small amount needed can be cultivated into the soil and this objection eliminated.

Commercial Fertilizers

Commercial fertilizers may be compounded with organic materials such as blood meal, bone meal or cottonseed meal. These are called *organic fertilizers*. Those manufactured chemically, such as ammonium sulphate, calcium nitrate, etc., are called *inorganic fertilizers*. Organic fertilizers take longer to become available to the plant, are less likely to damage plants by "burning," and provide plant food over a longer period of time than do fertilizers that consist of inorganic materials. Both organic and inorganic fertilizers supply plants with the same nutrient elements, the nutrient elements are equally beneficial, and at the time the plant absorbs the elements, they are identical.

Major Plant Food Elements

It is an accepted fact that all plants need the elements carbon, oxygen and nitrogen which they obtain from air and water. Nitrogen, phosphorous and potash are needed by all plants in liberal quantities and are obtained from the soil. These are called *major plant food elements*. The usual commercial fertilizer contains these last three elements in varying quantities, depending upon the use for which it was formulated. Fertilizers for lawns and for the stimulation of growth will have a high level of nitrogen and lower levels of the other two elements; while a fertilizer formulated to stimulate flowers or fruit will have little or no nitrogen and higher levels of phosphorous and potash. There are formulas made that are between these two extremes.

Secondary Plant Food Elements and Mico-Nutrients

Plants also need calcium, magnesium and sulfur (sulphur) which are called *secondary plant food elements*. Plants use much less of these, but they are just as essential to good plant growth as the primary elements.

Other elements plants need for a complete "diet" are called *Micro-Nutrients*: boron, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, zinc and chlorine. All must be available to plants in very small amounts for success growth. As secondary elements and Micro-Nutrients usually occur in soils in sufficient quantities for good plant growth, it is only occasionally that these are added to a commercial fertilizer.

Complete Fertilizer

The most common fertilizer formulas contain the three major plant food elements, and the amounts of each element contained is listed on the package as a percentage figure. The major elements are always listed in order: Nitrogen—Phosphorus—Potash. They are sometimes referred to as "N—P—K," the laboratory symbols for the elements. A fertilizer that contains the three major elements is called a *complete fertilizer*. A *simple fertilizer* is one that contains only one of the major elements, such as ammonium sulphate, which supplies only nitrogen.

Complete-Plus Fertilizer

Fertilizer formulas which contain one or more of the secondary of Micro-Nutrients in addition to the three major elements are called *Complete-Plus fertilizers*. There are many of these formulas manufactured which are useful to the gardener because they supply the known needs of popular garden plants because of the extra elements they contain. Such mixtures often incorporate the name of the plant for which they are intended: Rose Food, Dichondra Food and Camellia Food are three examples of formulas developed for special plants. Usually there is no problem if these specialized fertilizers are used on other plants; the extra elements may not be needed but they will not be harmful either.

Weed and Insect Control Fertilizers

There are Complete-Plus formulas which in addition to the major elements and secondary elements and Micro-Nutrients, contain weed control materials and/or insect control materials. Package labels on these formulas tell specifically which plants to fertilize, give directions for amounts to use and for the methods of application, as well as the precautions that apply. These directions should be read and understood before such a material is used. These are usually lawn or dichondra foods, and if used on plants other than those particularly specified, they can be hazardous. For example: Some weed control materials will not affect dichondra, but will weaken or kill bermuda or blue grass, so imagine what could happen if a fertilizer con-

Mr. GEORGE JAMES, Garden Care feature writer, is an experienced horticulturalist and gardening teacher. He studied under his father, a nurseryman, and at U.C. at Davis. He has lived in the San Diego area since 1913 and is well versed in our local gardening situation.

taining this weed control material were used on a grass lawn.

Liquid Fertilizers

The fertilizers considered up until now have been dry in the form of powders, granules, pellets, or vemiculite impregnated with the plant food elements. There are also liquid forms of fertilizer which are formulated in much the same manner as the dry one and may be used for the same purposes. There are liquids for camellias, roses, dichondra, etc.; some contain weed killers and others have insect controls added. Many formulas have a soil penetrant added to them which enables them to penetrate hard soil. It is very effective in allowing fertilizer solutions to penetrate thatch. Thatch is a build up on older bermuda lawns of dead leaves, lawn clippings and crossed bermuda runners which can be so dense that water penetrates it poorly.

Liquid fertilizers are concentrated and must be diluted with water for use on plants. Directions for mixing with water and the amounts to apply to a given area are given on the label. Liquid fertilizers may be diluted in small lots in a watering can or bucket, and large areas can be quickly treated by applying it with a siphon type sprayer which can be easily attached to the end of the hose. These fertilizers supply the plants with exactly the same food elements as the dry materials, but because of the shorter life in the soil of the liquid materials, one must use liquid fertilizers more frequently than dry fertilizers.

Liquid fertilizer when used at the proper dilution, is the safest and most efficient way to fertilize plants in pots or any place where roots are confined.

When a liquid fertilizer solution is applied to moist earth it disperses through the root ball quickly and evenly, there is little chance of root damage, and it leaves no unsightly or odoriferous residue on the surface of the soil.

Foliar Feeding

It has been known for some time that plants can absorb nutrient materials through their leaves and other above ground parts (foilage) and that it is possible to fertilize by foliar feeding. One advantage of foliar feeding is that the nutrients are placed where they can be converted quickly into plant food, rather than entering the plant through the roots and being conveyed to the leaves and other green parts of the plant. This suggests that foliar feeding can be used to an advantage when the roots of plants have been damaged during replanting, etc.

During cold periods the roots of plants are not very active and do not take up fertilizer applied to the soil. Winter and spring flowering annuals are often planted late in the fall and grow slowly all winter. These can be stimulated to better growth by the use of foliar feeding. Plants which are dormant in winter do not benefit from foliar feeding because their growth is regulated by temperature, and because when dormant they will not make use of food elements applied to their leaves.

Plants whose roots are entwined with roots of larger and stronger plants or trees often show little response to fertilizer applied to the soil. The smaller or the desired plants in such a competitive situation can be improved during their growing season if they are fed through their leaves, thereby enabling them to get all the food supplied, and denying the others even a smell of it.

Directions for foliar feeding are sometimes not found in the directions on the labels of liquid fertilizers. If there are no directions for foliar feeding one should use about one quarter of the amount of fertilzer specified for soil feeding diluted in the water. It should be applied as a fine spray to the foliage of the plants needing feeding.

Plants that are full of water when any fertilizer is applied (soil or foliar) are much less likely to suffer damage from the fertilizer than plants that are in need of water.

Foliar feedings are most effective when applied early in the day which gives the plant a longer period to absorb the nutrients. Foliar feeding should not be done during very warm weather as damage can easily occur under such conditions. The leaves can absorb the fertilizer solution through either the upper or the lower surface. The lower surface is said to be a little more efficient, but most applications are made to the upper surface and good results are obtained.

Some gardeners have adopted a program of foliar feeding all the plants that need to be fertilized. Applications are made at intervals of two weeks and have proven quite effective.

Those who are thinking of trying foliar feeding are warned to be prepared to stop the feeding as soon as good growth is stimulated, otherwise, it is possible to create monsters out of otherwise attractive plants.

Liquid fertilizers can be combined with most of the commonly used insecticides without danger, and when this is done, two jobs can be accomplished with the effort and time needed for one.

Some flowers are discolored or damaged by the liquid fertilizer solution. If this happens, one can either avoid wetting the flowers, or in the case of roses or other plants with individual flowers, cut the opening flowers before the application.

The drops of liquid fertilizer solution that fall to the ground are not wasted, for in time the roots of the plants will be able to gather this material and benefit from it.

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Two Board of Trustee members of the San Diego Botanical Foundation were recently honored as Gentlemen of Distinction; Mr. Samuel W. Hamill, City Beautiful, and Mr. Joseph E. Jessop, Community Endeavor.

Dahlias

by Larry Sisk,
San Diego County Dahlia Society

Growing Dahlias from seed

AN INCREASINGLY popular part of dahlia growing as a hobby is propagating exhibition varieties from seed. It also is popular — and profitable — for the commercial grower; originating and introducing new prize-winning varieties can be more profitable than merely supplying roots of standard varieties to the trade.

For the amateur hobbyist, hitting the once-in-a-lifetime winner in his seedling patch provides the thrill of a lifetime. It also means certain prestige among other amateurs.

For the professional, a winner spotted in the field and nurtured, may mean hundreds of profitable dollars from sale of roots at $15 or $20 each the first year, $10 the second, $7.50 or $5 the third and thereafter as a "standard" at $1.50 to $3 each.

Dahlias don't reproduce themselves from seed; each seed is different from all others, and each seedling may be entirely different in form from either of its parents. Thus, each seedling raised to a blooming plant becomes a new variety. How good that variety is, according to accepted standards, decides whether it is worth keeping and, if kept, whether it is better than contemporary varieties, and how much better.

Whether the seedling blooms are winners or not, the amateur likes to raise them just to see — the gambler's chance, and the thrill of accomplishment.

Whether growing for fun or profit, now is the time to start with seed.

In starting, it should be remembered that exhibition dahlias are different from bedding varieties (known as Unwins). Although useful for borders and bedding for color, the latter are of no value whatsoever on the exhibition bench.

Dahlia seed packets in stores and nurseries are of the bedding kind. Seed of exhibition varieties are available only from dahlia nurseries, specialists, or hobby growers. Purchased from specialists the seed may cost as much as 5 to 10 cents each.

Seed propagation is almost the same as growing other flowers or semi-hardy vegetables: Start the seed in flats or pots, prick the emerging plantlets out to separate them into larger flats or singly into pots, harden the seedling plants as they grow on, and then plant out in the garden (or continue to grow them in pots, as desired).

Allowing about 30 days from seed as a minimum before planting out, the seed can be started when desired, under controlled conditions. In Southern California this means that the normal time to begin is early March, with planting out from mid-April to mid-May.

Bottom heat for seed flats and for the little seedling plants is important, but not essential if an even, fairly warm temperature is available. As for vegetable seed, a kitchen window will do until time for pricking out.

Normally, dahlia seeds have a good germination rate, so one can figure on about 90 per cent, or better for high-quality seed. At 10 cents a seed expect 100 per cent germination if normal culture practices are followed.

Briefly, plant the seed in rows about 2 inches apart and spaced so pricking can be done easily. Cover the seed a quarter to a half inch deep, firmly but not packed. Soak flat or pot, preferably from the bottom. Cover the flat or pot with a sheet of paper or loosely applied plastic, and if available, with a pane of glass. The soaking should be sufficient watering until the seeds are up within 10 to 20 days. Water only to keep slightly moist.

When one or two pairs of leaves develop, the seedling is ready to prick out and be placed at 2 to 3 inch intervals in flats or singly in pots. If single plants are desired, an excellent temporary pot is the foam plastic drinking cup, punctured at the bottom for drainage. Or even better, peat pots or those of pressed organic matter may be used and then planted out, pot and all, when ready.

A sifted soil is recommended for the seed flat. Preparing it is a careful ritual for the dedicated seedling grower: 1 part good garden loam, 1 part compost, planter mix, leaf mold or peat humus, and two parts of coarse sand, all well mixed. (As a special addition if desired, sift finely shredded sphagnum moss an eighth of an inch deep on the seed bed before placing the seed, then another eighth on top of the seed before covering with soil.)

For the potting mixture or larger flat to receive the pricked-out plants, here is a good formula; 2 parts loam, 1 part humus (see above), 1 part composted steer manure, 1 part coarse sand, and bone meal at the rate of 1 tablespoon per 4-inch pot of mixture, or at the rate of one pint per bushel of mixture. (32 quarts make a bushel.)

The seedling plants should be protected from insects from the start; spray with malathion or any general-purpose insecticide in very weak solution. Aphids and leaf miners are the worst enemies.

Use of horticultural B1 as recommended on the label for transplanting is recommended at time of pricking.

Pricked plants placed in larger flats may be potted up later as desired, or planted out direct from the flat after the garden soil has become warm. Protection for the seedlings, under even temperature also is advisable until they are well established or until nights and soil are warm.

Final warning: Don't expect a garden full of winners when growing from seed. Even the best professionals are happy to get a keeper out of each 250 seeds and a marketable winner out of a thousand or more.

But, if you get something you like, keep it and grow it. The first-year seedling will produce a good clump of roots and by saving the roots you can perpetuate your own seedling. It's a fun bonus from growing dahlias.

Larry Sisk, a retired newspaper man, has been growing dahlias in San Diego for the past 15 years. Also, he has exhibited his dahlias in all the shows as far north as Bakersfield. CALIFORNIA GARDEN has been fortunate to have had this knowledgeable hobbyist write on dahlias for the past ten years.

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Succulents

Nibby Klinefelter
San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

Gasteria Maculata

W. R. SCOTT

"That old thing" was my first thought. The more thought given to this familiar plant, the more realization of a slight to an old friend. One with so many virtues as to seem dull, for this *gasteria* can sit around the house gathering dust and still survive. It can be neglected and still endure. "Cast iron" is its reputation for it requires little in the way of attention, water and light. This placid plant is great for a child, a man's office or the bookshelves, as well as the shady rock garden.

There are some 50 species of *gasterias,* a member of the *Liliaceae* Family (lily) and first cousins to aloes and haworthias. In fact, aloes formerly contained the gasterias and haworthias. These three leafy succulents from South Africa hybridize freely among themselves and occasionally with each other, so don't expect too much fidelity when growing from seed.

Gasteria from "gaster," Greek for belly or paunch. The name refers to the irregular shape of the closed flowers that have no definite blooming time. *Maculata* means spotted or stained, which the leaves most certainly are. The sturdy tongue-shaped leaves are fleshly and stiffly erect. The white markings show to good advantage on dark green glossy leaves which in well grown maturity are eight inches long and two inches at the base. More or less two-ranked, unequal sided, the blunt tip has a horny terminal spine. The flowers dangle loosely on tall, gracefully curving spikes which sometimes branch. The color of the flowers in this species range from pink through red, and this plant has scarlet blooms tipped with green. You might think of them as delicate Chinese lanterns, bobbing along at intervals rather than a bunch of red bellies.

Gasteria pulchra (pulchra means handsome) is quite similar but has longer and narrower leaves which taper to a sharper point and are more densely blotched with white.

Gasteria verrucosa (verrucosa means warted) commonly known as Ox Tongue is the most well-known of the genus. White tubercles give it a frosty look and a rough texture. It has flowers of a soft glowing coral color. The largest species is *G. acinacifolia* (means scimitar-leaved) which is 18 inches or more tall with leaves 15 inches long, forming loose rosettes. One of the tiniest is *G. liliputana,* a charming miniature.

Two unusual species are *G. armstrongii* which resembles a number of life-size tongues closely overlapping in opposite directions, all saying "a-h-h-h-" as they cling together pointing down to hug the edge of the pot; and *G. neliana,* a trim, cleancut recently discovered gasteria.

Gasterias respond to care. When their roots are too dry too long, they get off to a slow start with the growing season. Give them a little more water and a rich porous soil and a shady spot. While they can merely endure, they can also thrive, becoming splendid specimens, proud and fulfilled.

Nibby Klinefelter is a compulsive gardener who has been growing succulents as a hobby for the past 12 years. For the past two years in San Diego she has been concentrating on these, as she says "fascinating plants of a tremendous number of varieties." She finds them easy and satisfying to care for in her spare time.

AT I

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30 W. 22nd St., National City, California

Cactus

Dr. Leroy N. Phelps
San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

Zygocactus truncatus

W. R. SCOTT

DURING THE HOLIDAYS you may have seen and wondered about Crab's Claw, Thanksgiving Cactus and Christmas Cactus. If you were presented with one you would probably like to know something of its history, characteristics and the necessary growing conditions for your living gift.

Crab's Claw, Thanksgiving Cactus and Christmas Cactus are all popular names for the varieties of *Zygocactus truncatus* (zy' go kak' tus trun ka' tus). The common names are descriptive of appearance or time of blooming. The plant was originally described by Haworth in 1812 as a species of *Epiphyllum*. Karl Schumann created the montoypic genus *Zygocactus* in 1890, using the Greek roots meaning 'yoke cactus' referring to the appearance of the irregular flower. The species name means the stem segments have a cut off appearance.

The joints or segments of the plant average about two inches long and one inch wide, although there are both larger and smaller varieties. The segments are flat, usually with several teeth on each side. There may or may not be a few very weak spines in the areoles above the teeth. The segments become quite thickened with age and frequently form a woody trunk. The plant is a native of the eastern Brazilian jungles and is an epiphyte (a plant which grows on another plant without attacking the supporting plant). It is moisture and shade loving but also demands that the roots be well aerated. In our climate the plant must have from one-fourth to one-half sun in order to bloom properly. With this amount of sun the plant will have a reddish blush over the normal clear green color. The roots of this plant are not extensive, so large containers are not required. No matter what the size of the container, the soil must be loose, fairly rich (about 50% humus) and very well drained. It is a hanging plant and is displayed best in a hanging basket or in a stilted pot. The plant grafts well, especially on *Selenicereus* (one of the Night Blooming Cereus), and a single segment will give a beautiful standard specimen in two or three years. (Standard specimen means a specimen in the form of a tree rose except that the branches would droop.)

The flowers are the reason for this plant being so popular. They appear in midwinter (late October to January), a given plant remaining in bloom for three to six weeks. There are nearly a hundred varieties, each with its own blooming period and flower color. The flowers normally appear from the end segment of each branch and there may be up to four flowers from each. The flower is nearly three inches long and over an inch wide. They hang down or stand out, and they are nearly always irregular (zygomorphic). The colors available range from nearly pure white through crimson red to deep purple. Some of the color variants have been named as botanical varieties of the species, but their acceptability is in doubt. Many authors talk about the color variants as hybrids, but none of them suggest a second parent! As you probably realize, there are no blue-flowered cacti. It is my idea, however, that a blue-flowered cactus could be developed in *Zygocactus truncatus* since some of the flowers have a blue tone. Who will do it?

All varieties of this species require a few weeks at 50 to 55 degrees during the fall in order to set buds. Once buds have been set, the plant will bloom quicker if warmed up, although warming is not necessary. It is frost sensitive, so don't leave it exposed if freezing is expected. It has been said that the plants may be induced to set buds by allowing the plants to dry for a few weeks in the fall, but I have never tried this method since the Southern California fall weather offers the perfect conditions. It is wise not to change the light direction drastically after the buds show color as they may twist and drop off. These plants tend to bloom about a month early when grafted, so a particular variety can be had in bloom for up to three months by having a plant both grafted and on its own roots. Some plants will set fruit freely (if you're not a faded-flower picker-offer), and the fruits are dull red with a pear shape and about a half-inch long.

If you have been given an un-rooted cutting, this cutting should bloom and root properly if kept on the dry side in regular potting soil or in pure sand. The roots should appear within two months — be sure to not over-water. When roots develop, if in sand, carefully repot it in the above mentioned potting soil. The plant should bloom the following year.

Most authors agree there is only one species in the genus, but a few authors think the genus should be discarded and this plant put in the genus *Schlumbergera*. There is a similarity in appearance and habitat but the latter genus has a regular flower, usually held more upright, and the members of the genus all bloom in the spring — commonly called "Easter Cactus." I am of the opinion that there are enough differences to maintain the two genera as distinct entities.

Dr. Leroy N. Phelps has been a cactus hobbyist for 15 years and an avid grower and collector for the past 3 years in San Diego. He has a collection of plants from Mexico and plans more collection trips. He is a professor of Microbiology at San Diego State College.

Roses

By Richard D. Streeper

President, San Diego Rose Society

THIS TIME OF YEAR requires a certain amount of watching and waiting as far as roses are concerned. Roses should have been pruned between mid-December and mid-February, depending upon where you live in the county and the type of rose involved. If you have not completed the task by March, don't delay. Late pruning is not particularly harmful, if done properly. If new growth has started, remove the old twiggy growth and cut the largest canes to a growing bud on the outside of the plant. You can still remove any canes growing from the outside toward the center of the plant as long as there is a fair amount of new growth remaining. Remember that the objects of pruning are to maintain the bud union at the base of the plant in a good and healthy condition, to maintain a pleasing shape for the bush, and to direct strong growth through the upper portion of the bush by making cuts slightly above strong growth buds.

We do not normally experience serious disease problems in the spring. At the time of pruning it is best to remove all leaves and cuttings from the yard in order to eliminate overwintering insects and fungus. This should be followed by a standard dormant spray. The application of about one cup of soil sulphur around the base of each plant is desirable, also, for most soils in San Diego. This has probable value as a fungicide and also helps to correct an alkaline condition which exists in most of our areas. The soil sulphur can be applied at any time in the spring, but an early application is preferable since it may be necessary to scratch the surface of the soil about the plants to hold the sulphur in place. Any disturbance of the soil should be held to a minimum and confined to dormant months, to the extent possible.

The first application of fertilizer to established plants should be made about mid-February. About one cup of a balanced dry fertilizer is a good starter for each plant. This measurement is based on the assumption that the fertilizer contains about 10% available nitrogen. Newly planted roses should not be fertilized in the spring.

It is generally not necessary to spray roses with insecticides until the middle of spring unless you are seeking to produce rose show quality blooms. The greatest spring pests are aphids and they generally can be controlled by directing a stream of water on the affected parts. Use as strong a stream of water as possible without producing damage to the plants. Very good health can generally be maintained through the spring if the plants are washed with water two or three mornings a week.

Hybrid teas and grandifloras produce better flowers for cutting if side buds are removed forcing the plant to produce only one flower at the end of the stem. If the side buds are to be removed, they should be removed as soon as they appear. In that way there will be no noticeable scar on the flower stem. Even if the stem on the side bud has grown large, removal will still produce a better looking cut flower. Most floribundas produce a more satisfactory spray of flowers for cutting if the first terminal flower bud is removed very early. If the bud is not removed, in most plants, that bud will bloom many days before the balance of the spray. If it is removed, the entire spray tends to bloom at one time producing a very pleasing cutting specimen.

Richard D. Streeper is a lawyer who for the past 10 years has been a gardener hobbyist specializing in roses. His interest is in hybridizing them. He is a member and past president of the Rose Society.

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Camellias

By Charles B. Persing
President, San Diego Camellia Society

FEBRUARY and March are the height of the blooming season for most camellias. Barring hot Santa Ana winds or drenching rains, the camellias should be at the "blooming" best for the Southern California show season, which starts the first weekend of February and goes through the first weekend of March. The San Diego Camellia Society will hold its annual show February 21st and 22nd, Saturday and Sunday, at the Conference Building in Balboa Park.

Up to this month, we have enjoyed the blooms of the early varieties beginning in October, such as High Hat, Alba Plena, Daikagura, Are Jishi, etc. For those who like to experiment, blossoms can be brought out earlier by the use of gibberelic acid, commonly called "gibbing." A growth bud is removed next to a flower bud. A drop of acid is put in the remaining cup of the growth bud. The resulting bloom will be larger than the norm and will last longer on the plant. The flowering will come about as much as 60 to 90 days ahead of the normal blooming period. This process has become popular enough to warrant a chemically treated flower division in many shows.

Inasmuch as the camellias are now in their blooming period, normal care is all that is needed, such as watering, picking spent blooms, and cleaning up around the base of the plants. This month an iron treatment can prove beneficial to the overall health of the plants.

As the show season comes to an end in March, we start thinking about pruning, a most important phase of camellia culture. A plant should be thinned out and shaped to be healthy and present a graceful appearance. Pruning, and removal of surplus growth buds later, is a continuing process and will save time and effort next year.

Fertilizing should start in early April, with subsequent applications in June, and again in August. A good commercial fertilizer can be used. Many growers employ straight cottonseed meal. Proportions of fertilizer would vary according to the size of the plant and container in which it is growing.

To protect the plant, particularly the new growth, pest control can be started in May and done again in June or July, or as needed. Malathion sprayed for aphids and chewers is usually all that is required. Fogging the plant will help wash aphids off, and also keep the leaves cool and clean.

There is a time when our plants outgrow their present containers and need to be transplanted. This can best be done near the end of the dormant period. I think every camellia grower has his own pet soil mix. Generally speaking, a mix consisting of two-thirds ground bark and one-third sandy soil will suffice.

Due to the fact that almost everyone views camellias in planter boxes or containers, it may not be understood that the camellia will grow into a tree. Though slow growers, the camellia can attain a verticle height of 20 feet, as with the species *sasanqua;* 30 feet with the species *japonica*; and as much as 50 feet with species *reticulata*. The time involved in reaching such growth is greater than the average life span of a human being. It takes about 13 years for a *japonica* to reach a height of 8 feet. At Descanso Gardens in La Cañada or the Huntington Gardens in San Marino, one can view the larger and older camellias in full bloom at this time of year. They are indeed trees of spectacular color and beauty.

The varieties of camellias number in the thousands. There are whites, pinks, reds, and variegated in six forms. These forms are single, semi-double, anemone, peony, rose form double, and formal double. These forms are important to the hobbyist who raises seedlings, propagates and enters blooms competitively in flower shows. There have been many new camellia introductions in the past few years, outstanding in color and form. Many of these introductions, from miniature to very large in size, have been introduced by local growers, Harvey Short and Howard Asper.

By attending the camellia shows and visiting nurseries, you can get a good idea of what varieties you might like to own and raise. I would be willing to bet, after an exceptional bloom has been shown, and a ribbon won, that you, too, would become a "camellia nut!"

Charles Persing, a Convair employee, has been raising camellias for nine years as a hobby and entering competitions for the past five years. He has been president of the Camellia Society for two years.

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Fuchsias

by Morrison W. Doty
San Diego Fuchsia Society

CALIFORNIANS LIKING to boast of year-round gardening, must admit, however, that many kinds of discouraging climatic changes will come and go — extremes of temperature, humidity, wind and rainfall — quite different from the rest of our country.

The 1500 mile Fog Belt along a narrow strip of the West Coast of the United States from Vancouver to Baja California, Mexico, happens to have a climate near to the native rain-forest climate that Fuchsias like best. This area, where most of the many startling hybridizations have originated, has been called the "Fuchsia Belt" sometimes, with good reason, since other parts of the country grow them mostly in greenhouses or as short summer annuals. I'm always disappointed when I am on Eastern trips that they know so little about Fuchsias.

This is the time of year for complaints of plant losses, especially of treasured basket or container specimens, often from frost, though more often from allowing them to get too dry, too low on soil nutrients after months of watering without replenishment, or too wet from over watering in cold heavy shade, with a poor drainage soil mixture.

Frost Damage

Don't discard badly frosted plants too quickly. You may be amazed how many will come back (if they were not below par from neglect before freezing) provided they are not disturbed, fed, pruned, or even watered but very little until a bit of green life begins to show they are able to accept it. Protection from wind and a warmer nook (not direct sun) also helps recovery from frosting.

Watering and plant loss

The soil surface should be allowed to dry between waterings, only moist underneath. Soil mixtures containing too much water holding elements, especially with slow drainage and/or a cold location may cause root rot or kill a plant just as surely as getting too dry from lots of wind, or lack of watering. Remember, however, that foggy weather, even the heavy drippy kind, or very light showers usually wet only the air around our plants, not the soil at the roots, thus allowing plants to get too dry before you know it. This remains by far the commonest cause of plant losses in this climate, we have observed.

Pruning

Although we described pruning in our October issue for the many growers who prefer not to wait for Spring with its danger of frost or dieback, more pruning is still done in the Spring, even after Fall trimming, so here is a resume' to start off the new year with that all important chore:

Since the blooms come only on new growth, your general rule is to cut back nearly all your growth from last year to the 2nd and 3rd leaf node, keeping in mind always the type of Fuchsia, bush, basket, tree or espalier. It is best to always use sharp shears, making diagonal cuts between leaf nodes. They will stand some drastic cutting of old wood in vigorous plants when it is necessary to bring it back to a proper type shape. Bushes may be headed high or low, according to their place as background, foreground, or border in garden plan. Basket (of trailers) are cut back almost to edge of container, leaving a bit of foliage against adverse conditions, if possible. Tree types (upright growers only) are supported straightly up to desired height before heading; side buds rubbed off, then pinched at tips to round heads full and round. Delicate, fine growing varieties are best for espaliering, needing less drastic cutting beyond holding the shape after patterns have been established, and for curbing too much drain on the plant.

Rooting Cuttings

When pruning, save 3 inch tips of the most vigorous favorite varieties for propagation cuttings. Press cuttings down firmly in moist clean sand or vermiculite in a starting flat (or better, tiny plastic cups) and place in a warm nook (not sun). These slips should be rooted, ready for transplanting, within 3 weeks. Keep "plenty" moist underneath, but if too wet and in a cold place, they may damp off and die. 100% success in slipping Fuchsias is possible, as they will root well just in water.

A good, simple, safe planting mix for young plants is a potting mix consisting of ⅓ loam, ⅓ leaf mold, and ⅓ sand.

Don't feed cuttings, but light feedings of a good liquid fish base fertilizer every ten days to two weeks apart may be started after transplanting. Use high nitrogen formula fertilizers at first for sturdy growth and foliage, such as 10-5-5; then high phosphorous feedings, perhaps 4-10-8 later, for rich abundant bloom.

Selecting varieties

In selecting varieties for your location ask for *heat hardy* ones for valley, or hot areas, as tests here and in Europe have shown great differences in resistances to extreme temperatures. The single varieties that run mostly to red, orange and fuchsia colors seem to be more able to stand direct sun than any of the big dark colored doubles. Strange to say, some of the old tested heat hardies such as Glandale and Rose of Castile, also stand cold and exposure best, too.

Preventive spraying

Mild preventive spraying of a very mild insecticide should start early in the growing season. Fuchsias can be easily damaged by harsh or strong applications.

Nurserymen that specialize in Fuchsias (so plentiful in California now) are all glad to advise the new grower all they can, and I hope encourage you to join good garden groups, such as a Floral or Fuchsia Society, to learn more.

Morrison W. Doty retired in San Diego and has been a Fuchsia grower for 20 years. He is one of the founding members of the Fuchsia Society. California Garden is fortunate to have had this knowledgeable hobbyist write for the past 10 years.

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Orchids

Duane Bud Close
San Diego County Orchid Society

WE MIGHT LOOK to our native orchids, *Habenaria* and *Epipactis,* for example, for some hints as to what to expect through these late winter and early spring months. Our granitic hillside soils of Southern California where we find these natives, will soon yield to thin dark green lily like leaves. This means that toward the end of January active root growth is being initiated. By the middle of February the first leaves will be above ground and the flower spike will be well on its way toward anthesis by the 15th of March. This native orchid sequence is directly related to many of our imported and cultivated hybrids as most of these are also initiateing their terminal root and leaf growth at this time. To be more specific:

Cattleya and allied genera

Most of these plants will remain relatively inactive during this period. Remember that sufficient moisture should be offered during these months to keep pseudobulbs reasonably plump. Even with the normal week to ten day watering cycle, the Santana winds plus dryness from heaters can cause sudden dehydration of these plants, especially those hidden in the back and corners of the greenhouse.

Repot plants that are growing over the edge of the pot. Watch the base of the leed growth or pseudobulb for the first sign of root growth — this is the prime time to repot.

Provide maximum light at this time to insure strong growth and maximum flowers for the coming season. With this strong light watch your plants carefully to avoid excessive yellowing of the leaf and pseudobulbs. If you have any reason to worry about burning of your plants due to excessive light, feel a leaf directly exposed to the sun during the heat of the day, if it is warm or hot, then it's time to provide additional shading.

Cymbidiums and allied terrestrials

This is the peak of the flowering season for cymbids with growth activity at a minimum. If plants have outgrown their containers or the medium in which they are growing is badly broken down, repot these plants after their flowering cycle. If you leave the flowers on the plant for several weeks after the last flower on the raceme (spike) has opened, be aware of the fact that you may be going past the prime time for potting this plant. When Cymbidiums are flowering they usually need some extra shade to insure lasting flower color and quality.

Phalaenopsis

These plants are actively producing their racemes at this time. Repot these plants often, at least once every two years. They need less light but more heat and humidity than the cattleyas.

Paphiopedilums (Cyps)

These are also low light intensity orchids. Many are flowering during this season and should be repotted after flowering. Since these plants do not have any storage organs and may have some active root growth at all times, more frequent watering is necessary as well as perhaps yearly potting.

Vandas

Vandas need maximum light intensity during most of the year, in fact, may need full sunlight to insure flower spike initiation. These are also heavy feeders, so follow a regular feeding program for maximum vanda growth and flower performance.

For all orchids, the grower should provide sufficient ventilation or air movement. A small fan mounted in the peak of the orchid house may provide this air movement, depending on the size of your establishment.

The author welcomes all questions related to orchid culture. *Please send to California Garden magazine and they will be forwarded to author.*

Duane "Bud" Close, a native San Diegan, has been growing orchids in San Diego for 23 years. His Master's thesis was on the native orchid. He is the chairman of the Science Department at Grossmont High School.

FLY-THRU BIRD CAGE *(Continued)*

enforcing steel rods welded in place by my friend Hutch. The steel rods radiate from the center position out past the edge of the cage to form a circle, looks oriental and the birds were delighted. Now we were attracting jay birds, robins and all kinds of hummers as well as sparrows and finches.

As a follow-on fringe benefit, the neighbors directly behind us put out some bird feeders with various wild bird goodies including sunflower seeds. I watched this operation and in particular the jay birds feeding, because they seemed to eat all they could hold, then go to some area of our yard and hide the sunflower seeds. At any rate, I thought they were hiding them to be eaten later. But, I soon learned better when only a few days later little green sprouts started breaking through the earth all over the yard. It wasn't long before some of them were full grown sunflowers. Those jay birds surely know what they are doing; the whole back yard has been producing sunflowers all fall and winter, there are more and more coming on all the time and the jays are still here to eat them . . . at home in the fly-thru that began with a sack of cement!

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Iris

by Sanford Roberts
Member, San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society

THE WARMER DAYS of late winter should help to awaken most dormant rhizomes. Before this burst of spring growth begins is the time to plan for an even better show of flowers.

If the rains did not arrive, remember that moisture is of primary importance to help your irises stage their spring bloom festival. Fertilizers that were applied in the fall and early winter may need water in order to be of benefit to the root system. The natural rainfall of most years must be supplemented by occasional waterings during February and March.

Growers in this area often disagree regarding fertilization at this time of the year. Some advise the application of 0-10-10 around February 1, March 1 and April 1. This will increase color intensity and size of flower. (Certainly, a major step toward a blue or purple ribbon at upcoming shows.) Some recommend a 5-10-10 fertilizer for late January and early February feedings. Yet, a balanced feeding of 12-12-12 or 10-10-10 will be practiced by some.

One area of agreement among local growers is the use of systemic spray to combat aphids and control of those "bud-spoiling" little demons—thrips. Aphids winter over in the foliage of the mother rhizome. The damage results in a stunted, practically worthless, center bloom stalk from the rhizome planted last fall. A spraying in January and March and in April will normally control both insects satisfactorily. Heavy infestation of aphids in some variety might actually cause *pineapplíng*, a condition that prevents maximum bloom, though at present this is not proven. The April systemic spraying should be directed at the emerging bloomstalk.

About six weeks before peak bloom is expected seems a fine time to apply a final application of liquid 0-10-10. (Avoid nitrogen when bloom time is approaching.) This will also produce blooms with better substance.

The long period of fall and winter care is but a prelude to the spectacle of many Spring Iris Shows in Southern California. Everyone who grows iris is invited to exhibit blooms at these shows. They are not staged for members only. The one requirement is that the name of an entry must be known by the exhibitor. No guesswork here!

Attend the Spring Shows. Visit local growers and their gardens. Attend the monthly meetings of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society and become acquainted. Many hobbyist growers will be delighted to invite you to see their home gardens.

The spectacle of the rainbow flowering season is near—plan to enjoy every minute of it! Though we are privileged to have year round bloom in this area—nothing compares with the March, April and May bloom season. That is—if you like iris—*we do!*

Sanford Roberts is an iris hobbyist with over 3,000 iris rhizomes planted in his three acre yard. He says he has always been interested in plants and pets. He publishes The American Dachshund magazine and shows dogs and square dances in his spare time.

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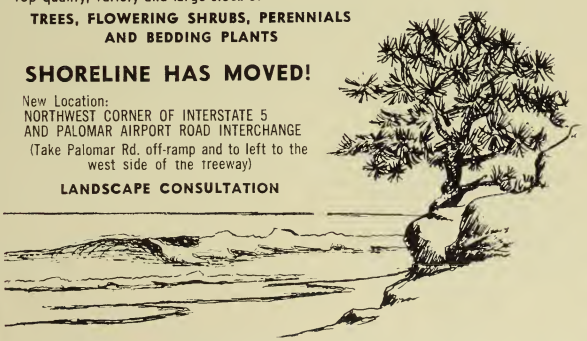
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三五七

3-5-7

ANYONE WHO WORKS with *ikebana* (flower arrangement), *niwa* (gardens), *bonsai* (miniature tree culture) or any of the Japanese arts is familiar with and is able to work with the 3-5-7 concept. Usually Westerners do not know what these symbolically represent.

Most of the Japanese arts as we know them today were stylized and given rules, often based on symbolism in the Momoyama Period (1573-1615). During this period there was great interest in ancient Chinese philosophy. Zen Buddhism, which incorporates much Confucianism, was the predominate religion of the patrons and practitioners of the arts. In the formation of rules, nomenclature for parts based on philosophical meanings was included. (Earlier religious flower arrangements depicted present, past and future by the use of full flower, pod and bud, and other arrangement were floral representations of landscapes with appropriate names—mountain, stream, near mountain, etc.)

Three (3) is the number for the *Confucian Triad,* commonly known by the words "heaven, man, earth." "Heaven" stands for the asthetic, essential power; "mans" stands for the means by which this power is motivated; and "earth" indicates solid, material substance. (In ancient Chinese Taoist philosophy oneness plus positive and negative make three. This concept sometimes used.)

Five (5) was considered by the ancients to be sacred and potent. Its original Chinese character representation was crossed lines which stood for the four directions N, S, E, W and the middle. The middle being considered a circle which is the symbol of "heaven."

Seven (7) is 5 plus 2. This two is *yin* (*yo,* female, negative) and *yang* (*in,* male, positive). Ancient concepts, still believed today, were that all things to be whole had to possess both yin and yang parts in proper balance. The Japanese adopted the *yin* and *yang* concept and strict attention was and is given to properly balancing these two elements.

Yes, one can use the 3-5-7 concept without knowing, but isn't it more intriguing when you know?

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Armchair Gardener

Manual of Plant Names. C. Chickerley Plowden. N.Y. Philosophical Library, 1969. (C1968 in England) 260 pages. $10.00.

Encyclopedic information in a book hardly larger than pocket size gives in seven alphabetical index forms: (1) Generic names of plants (2) Specific epithets (descriptive adjectives modifying the generic name) (4) Botanical terms (5) Flower and inflorescence (6) Leaf and leaf forms with diagramatic drawings (7) Plant systems with a chart of flora of the world, and includes a bibliography. The first section on the naming of plants explains the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, now in worldwide use.

The scope of the manual is concerned with every aspect of naming genera, species and plant parts and with plant relationships. It covers plants grown for their decorative ornamental value or used for food, science or utility and commerce.

While the book is English in origin, its use is mainly as an international guide to an understanding of the mystery of botanical terminology. In the chapter on genera, you'll find many old friends and you'll lose all track of time as you go on from one to another and you'll understand each better as you see why and how they got the names they bear.

The author, whose real name is Michael Plowden, has been one of the advisors on B B C's "Garden Question Time!" and has written widely for gardening and horticultural publications. He is a life-long student and lover of plants as a hobby. This handbook will have value to gardeners, horticulturists and botanists for the vast amount of basic information within a small compass, on the fascinating world of plants and their naming.

Reviewed by Vera Morgan

Vera Morgan, a graduate of Columbia University, has been a librarian and former editor of California Garden magazine. She is presently compiling and index of the magazine — watch for it soon.

Our Northern Shrubs and How to Identify Them. Harriet Keeler. Dover Publications, Inc. C1969. Republication of the work originally published by Scribners in 1903. $3.75.

This is another Dover re-issue. An effort to bring it up to date is the Appendix of Nomenclatural Changes compiled by Edward G. Voss for this edition. These paperback books are attractive in format, and some of the other books on their Nature list such as *Wildflowers of California* by Mary Elizabeth Parsons or *Western Forest Trees* by James B. Berry would be more appealing to us in California. Miss Keeler's book is easy to use for plant identification. There are many black and white photographs of the shrubs described. She writes easily and in a lively way about the plants she loves and enjoys.

Reviewed by Doris Blick

Doris Blick is a San Diego City Librarian who is a book and flower enthusiast. Such a combination makes a fine reviewer.

SNAILS (and slugs) — 'tis the season! These eating creatures look forward as eagerly as the gardener to those tender new green shoots of Spring. One can use commercial baits, but many in this area have found that an infusion of red chili peppers works very well, is inexpensive and does not harm pets, children or earthworms. (Pour hot water over a 3 oz. package of dried red chile peppers in a one quart jar. Let stand 4 hours to overnight and pour the infusion around plants. Peppers can be used for two more quarts before discarding.)

News releases state that in Department of Agriculture test it was found that slugs are attracted to shallow dishes of stale beer and crawl in and drowned. Tests have shown that the beer is approximately ten times as effective as standard bait.

While on the subject of snails, the San Diego County Department of Agriculture has issued a warning about GIANT SNAILS 6 to 8 inches long. According to San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner James Moon the giant African snails have been found in two places in the U.S. "In each instance, the snails brought from Hawaii by these people were intended as souvenirs or curios," Moon said. "Little did they realize the terrific reproductive capacity of these creatures, which are bisexual, each one capable of laying eggs. They multiply at a phenomenal rate." It is estimated that each snail can produce 8 billion descendents in 3 years and there is no record of this pest ever being eradicated from an area where it once became established. So—if you see any of these "nightmares" call the San Diego County Department of Agriculture immediately.

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EL CAJON WOMAN'S CLUB (Garden Section)
Pres.: Mrs. John Ohlson 444-2753
655 Bradford Rd., El Cajon 92020

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3rd Friday, Woman's Club, 240 So. Bdwy., 1:00 p.m.
Mrs. Charles Younger 746-5109
369 Eldorado Drive Escondido 92025

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Last Thursday, Fallbrook Woman's Clubhouse, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Clair Acker 728-2341
1061 Riverview Dr. Fallbrook 92028

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Pres.: Mrs. John Marx 459-6417
1216 La Jolla Rancho Rd., La Jolla 92037

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3rd Monday, Lakeside Farm School, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Lucy May Carender
9282 Riverview, Lakeside 92040

LA MESA WOMAN'S CLUB (Garden Section)
3rd Thursday, La Mesa Women's Club, 1:00 p.m.
Mrs. L. Fred Will
8301 Mission Gorge Rd. Sp. 351
Santee 92071

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First Tuesday, Lemon Grove Woman's Club House, 1 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Hal Crow 466-3330
3850 Quarry Rd., La Mesa 92041

MISSION GARDEN CLUB
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Pres.: Eugene A. Casey 753-3571
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2nd Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., Community Church
Pres.: Mrs. Leo C. Cusick
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Second Tuesday—Club House, 2:00 p.m.
Pres.: Hubert Larson
P.O. Box 782 Rancho Santa Fe 92067 756-1926

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Pres.: Mrs. Douglas Oldfield
6372 Lake Levon, San Diego 92119

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Fourth Tuesday, Asbury Methodist Church, 8:00 p.m.
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2327 33rd Street, San Diego 92104 284-4449

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
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Pres.: Mr. E C. Pferdner
1221 San Julian Dr., San Marcos 92069 744-0226

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Second Wednesday, Porter Hall Clubhouse, La Mesa (8425 University) 8:00 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Mary Birchell
6070 Sarita St., La Mesa 92041 466-7631

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Second Monday, Ramona Women's Club House, 5th and Main, 9:30 a.m.
Mrs. Troy Reese 789-1334
Rt. No. 1, Box 514-H, Ramona 92065

SANTEE WOMEN'S CLUB Garden Sec.
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9138 Willow Grove Ave., Santee 92071

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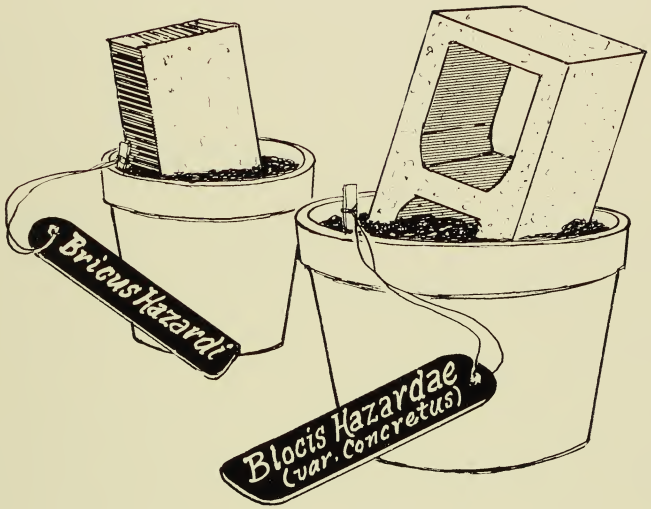

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